



SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

November 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
1ST 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.):

The club breakfast is being MOVED to Ihop at 2255 Tittabawassee Road.

All dates are Saturdays: 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 2nd 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 October will be Emergency planning. Visit the Ares website for more information. Ares training for November will be ICS-214 Activity Log.

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 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8:00 PM

Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for October 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Mike KD8MMH, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 13 members present.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Emmet NE8B. The motion passed.

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

Minnie KD8PAZ, reported on upcoming ham swaps.

Dave W8DW, reported on upcoming contests. Also noting the Midland club would be opening the high school station in the evenings during the week of the ARRL School Roundup.

The Mike KD8MMH, thanked everyone who volunteered for care break. We added about \$400 to our coffers. He also thanked everyone who volunteered to help with the club's booth at the Emergency Preparedness Expo held at the Birch Run Expo Center.

Ron KC8YVF, reported on the S.E.T. Event that also took place during the Expo. Ron said the Ares group was able to successfully copy the announcement and pass traffic. They were also able to gather useful performance data about the newly installed radios in the county trailer. Ron would like to thank everyone who helped with the event. A special thanks to Joe N8OSL, for lending us his outstanding skills as an operator.

Ron also discussed a recent experience he had involving 2 new hams that were having trouble finding help. All club members are encouraged to help other hams whenever possible and to direct hams to club officers when not. During this discussion and interest in various training activities was expressed by the membership.

Mike KD8MMH, discussed the request submitted by Jeff KB8SWR, for the purchase of 3 new 2 meter antennas that would replace the existing antennas at the Gera and Davenport receive sites, with the third antenna being used at the new Mackinaw site. Mike KD8MMH, stated his intention to move for a vote after discussion of the request. The repeated requests for the promised documentation from the grant project group were raised during the discussion. During the discussion Gordy KC8YVD, moved that we table the vote and discussion. The motion was seconded by Mike N8XPS, and the matter was tabled.

Ron KC8YVF, discussed the upcoming Ares training which centers around creating a communications plan. Please visit the Ares website for more information and a list of upcoming trainings.

Brian K8HY, gave a "Show Us Your Shack" presentation but brought the shack to us with his dual band digital station in a case. This clever design featured a portable radio and tablet sized portable computer securely fitted next to a small AGM battery, all inside a small pelican case. It was really something to see. Thanks Brian and I for one hope to see more in the future.

The winner of the 50-50 drawing, who had just been complaining they never win, was Gordy KC8YVD, with a winning ticket number of 214597. Congratulations Gordy.

The motion to adjourn was made by Emmett NE8B, and seconded by Horst KD8ZXR.

Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for October 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Duane KD8AUY, with Mike N8XPS, Dave W8DW, Doris KD8MMG, Horst KD8ZXR, 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 was not present.

Vice President's Report

The Vice President was not present.

Secretary's Report

The secretary reported that the new member packets would be ready by the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer had nothing new to report at the time of the board meeting.

General discussion

Dave W8DW, discussed the current state of the radio room. He suggested that we set a workday and organize a work party for setting up the equipment. It was also mentioned that the grant project group was looking for a site to replace the proposed Oakley site. An agreement for space on the tower at proposed site could not be reached with the organization that is currently occupying the site. Dave also discussed his desire to upgrade the EchoLink interface used for the .24 repeater. He expects the cost of this upgrade to be no more than \$30.

Dave W8DW, also mentioned the need for additional net controls for the Monday night nets. One of our usual net controls, Kevin KC8NFN, picking up some additional nets so he is giving up his spot on the Monday night nets. Thanks Kevin hope you can check in occasionally. We're going to miss your stories. If you would like to be a net control operator for one of our Monday night nets please contact Mike KD8MMH, or Ron KC8YVF for more information. Net control training can be provided for anyone who would like to volunteer.

The approaching nominations were discussed.

Attendees of the Michigan Hamvention said it was a good experience. There were lots of attendees with good things to say and lots of booths to visit. There were some small issues but the event is shaping up to be an annual favorite for Michigan hams.

A reoccurring discussion involving the need for more participation, new members and progress on existing club projects was had.

A discussion on the quality of service provided by Levi's was had and the decision was made to move the club breakfast to IHOP located on Titabawassee Rd.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mike N8XPS, and seconded by Duane KD8AUY

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Elias K8AVJ
Secretary

ARRL News

Aiming for a "Clean Sweep" is Big Part of ARRL November Sweepstakes' Appeal

For many, [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) is the premier ARRL fall operating event, with the lure of a "Clean Sweep" being the ultimate goal. The challenge of SS -- or "Sweeps" -- is to work as many stations in as many of the 83 [ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada \(RAC\)](#) sections as possible within the 24 available hours. The number of sections worked is a score multiplier. Be the first in your neighborhood to work all 83 and qualify for a "Clean Sweep" mug!

SS takes place on separate November weekends. The CW weekend is November 4-6, and the phone (SSB) weekend is November 18-20. The contest period for each contest begins at 2100 UTC on Saturday and continues through 0259 UTC on Monday (remember that the shift back to standard time occurs during the CW weekend). Stations may operate 24 hours of the available 30 hours. In a change this year, logs are due **5 days** after each event. SS is a "domestic" contest with broad appeal, and even stations with modest equipment and antennas can enjoy success. Many stations like to operate in the QRP category (output of 5 W or less).



Given its origins in the traffic-handling realm, ARRL November Sweepstakes has a lengthy exchange that replicates a radiogram preamble. In SS, stations exchange:

- A consecutive serial number (NR). Adding zeros ahead of numbers less than 100 is not required.
- Operating category -- **Q** for Single Op QRP; **A** for Single Op, Low Power (up to 150 W output); **B** for Single Op, High Power (greater than 150 W output); **U** for Single Op, Unlimited, regardless of power; **M** for Multioperator, regardless of power, and **S** for School Club.
- **Your call sign.**
- Check (CK) -- the last two digits of the year of first license for either operator or station.
- Section -- [ARRL/RAC Section](#).

The SS *Operating Guide* package, available for [download](#), explains how to participate in Sweepstakes, including all rules and examples of log formatting. Clubs or public service teams thinking about giving Sweepstakes a try this year will find the guide a useful source for information.

Records

For those hoping to break one of the current scoring records, there's a high bar. For example, in [SS CW](#), N2IC in New Mexico holds the Single-Operator, High Power record with 255,520 points, set in 2009. The Single-Operator, Low Power record of 213,144 points was set in 2015 by W2GD operating KP2M in the US Virgin Islands. The Single-Operator, QRP record of 173,168 was set in 2002 by N6TR operating W5WMU in Louisiana.

Some record holders in the [phone \(SSB\)](#) event include, for example, KE3Q in the top spot, who operated WP3R in Puerto Rico to earn identical 425,280-point scores in 2000 and 2002 in the Single-Operator, High Power category. VE4GV has the Single-Operator Low, Power crown with 308,160 points in 2000 from Manitoba. WA2GO holds the Single-Operator, QRP SSB phone record with 189,920 points from KL7Y in Alaska in 2001. SS CW and Phone records are also listed for unlimited, multi-single, and school categories.

Rare Ones

Some ARRL/RAC sections are considered tough ones to work for a "Clean Sweep." The often-elusive Northern Territories (NT) multiplier will be on the air this year, however, as Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM, takes the helm of VY1AAA, remotely operating the station of J. Allen, VY1JA, in Yukon Territory. Hull and Allen have done a lot of work on the system on their respective ends of things.



Gerry Hull, W1VE, in New Hampshire at the helm of VY1AAA during ARRL Field Day 2015.

"J has done a lot of work on the station, moving it to an outer building, so it does not bother him when we operate," Hull told ARRL. "The quad has been strengthened. A 160-meter double-L with a 70-foot vertical section has been installed." He said the Alpha linear has been repaired, there is remote antenna switching and azimuth control, plus "small changes in the station to improve reliability." Allen has been working on station wiring, too, he said. Hull shipped Allen a 500-foot roll of coaxial cable over the summer along with "many coax connectors" and other odds and ends.

"A Sweep may be hard, given the conditions in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico," Hull allowed. According to FEMA, power has been restored to less than one-third of customers in either location. He said the VY1 station also will be active in the [ARRL 160-Meter Contest](#), December 2-3. Hull pointed out that all VY1AAA remote operators must hold Canadian Advanced amateur licenses.

A Place Signed with Honor

Motivated by a strong feeling that Amateur Radio operators who died while engaged in public service deserve a lasting honor, a group of Michigan hams created the Monument to Fallen Hams.



This story begins at the July 1989 ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Newington, Connecticut, where the Board accepted a petition from five radio clubs in Michigan to host the 1991 ARRL National Convention. Grateful for the Board's confidence in them and in response to a suggestion of then ARRL Vice Director George Race, WB8BGY, members of the host group began discussing an appropriate "thank you" gift to the Amateur Radio community. The group wanted the gift to be significant, something that would reflect an important element of Amateur Radio and Michigan's Amateur Radio community.

An idea arose from one foggy memory. *QST* had reported that an Amateur Radio operator had died in the southwestern US while involved in public service. No one on the Convention Committee could recall the person's name. Some had never heard of his death. If he had been forgotten, who else might have died in public service and been forgotten?

The idea crystallized in the questioner's mind: Why not eliminate those foggy memories? Why not make the "gift" a permanent reminder of heroism for all to see? Its form could be a high quality memorial to those Amateur Radio operators who had died serving their communities and country.

The Work Begins

Presentations were made in July and August 1989 to members of the five sponsoring organizations: Bay Area Amateur Radio Club, Genesee County Radio Club, Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association, Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association and Shiawassee Amateur Radio Association. The concept of "Public Ser-

vice" as presented included both disaster-related public service communication and other public service activities not necessarily related to a disaster. The criteria for inclusion on the monument would be death in the performance of duty as a volunteer involved in Amateur Radio communication activities. Individuals who might have been licensed amateurs who died in the course of their employment or in the course of military duty were to be excluded from this monument and honored in some other way.

The project was approved quickly. Initial solicitations took place in September. In light of the terrorist events of 2001, it is interesting to note that the very first dollars to honor those who gave their lives in public service were given on September 11, 1989. Records show on that date Virginia Jaikens,

K8CPS; Harlan Bero, N8GNH, and George Cassidy, N8ETO, each contributed to the National Monument Fund.

Estimates for the cost of the monument were obtained from the Forest Lawn Granite and Bronze Works of Bay County, Michigan. Dave Erway of Forest Lawn suggested that four elements comprise the monument. Its upper portion would be cut from Black Mist Granite in the shape of the ARRL diamond. The diamond measured 4 feet 6 inches tall and 2 feet 3 inches across. The bottom portion would be cut from Barre Granite and measured 4 feet wide and 2 feet 8 inches tall. Mounted on it would be a 12-inch square brass dedication plaque. A poured concrete base would be installed at Newington at a cost of approximately



The brass plaque on the monument to fallen hams explains its purpose.

Several of the names and call signs engraved on the monument, which stands on the grounds of ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut.



\$1000. The Committee's final cost of the finished monument was \$10,121.00. In addition, the ARRL paid the cost of installing the concrete base at Newington.

A variety of announcements and promotions were used to identify potential honorees for the monument and to solicit funds. There were articles in *QST* and other magazines. Packet radio was used to disseminate information about the monument nationwide. Regional and state-wide discussions were hosted on miscellaneous phone nets and informational messages passed on the QMN CW net.

Nominations Arrive

The first written communication regarding nominations was received October 20, 1990. It was not really a nomination, but a reminder from Joe Mullen, W1ASI, that two hams had died while participating in public service during the eruption of Mount St Helens in May 1980. A few weeks later, in November and then in December, the first formal nominations were received for the two hams who'd perished at Mount St Helens: Reid Blackburn, KA7AMF, and Gerald O. Martin, W6TQF. The men were jointly nominated by Buzz Malbica, WB7M. Marianna, W7WFO, and Ty Kearney, W7WPF, nominated W6TQF.

February 1991 brought a nomination from the Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club of Galax, Virginia. Club members nominated Charles G. Litz, WD4DKF, who was electrocuted in 1979 while working with the Boy Scouts of America during the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air.

The following month, Arizona Section Manager James E. Swafford, W7FF, nominated Kenneth A. Rodrigues, W7KCM. Mr Rodrigues was engaged in an American National Red Cross drill at a Phoenix, Arizona airport when he died of a heart attack in February 1989.

In March 1991, Bonnie Girard, N6YXQ, nominated her cousin, Arthur "Pete" Vela, K5YLU, who had been killed in May 1983 by a building that collapsed after being buffeted by an unexpected storm containing winds estimated in excess of 100 mi/h. He had died at the Jefferson County (Texas) airport while engaged in a public service activity for Huguen School. It turned out that K5YLU was the ham from the southwest whose *QST* obituary had provided the original impetus for the monument.

The Committee received its final nominee prior to the Convention dedication ceremony in a letter from J. P. "Bill" Sandefer, ND5C, who nominated Dan Richard Moffett, NSMOR. Dan had died of a heart attack while in the middle of passing a message as part of a Military Amateur Radio System (MARS) communication network.

Postscript

Following the dedication of the original monument, the five clubs and the ARRL agreed that a standing committee would continue to review applications for new nominees. The committee members were: Harold "Smokey" Chambers, KA8ONX (now a silent key); Charlotte A. O'Connor, WD8RIM; Earl V. Ramey, WB8SIJ, and Joe Turner, K8CQF.

Since the original dedication the committee has received three nominations, two of which were approved. Two additional names are now inscribed on the monument. Robert V. Allard, KA1SJE, who was participating in the Rhode Island Lung Association Ocean State Bike Trek, died of cardiac arrest in August 1991. Frank Almeida III, WR1R, submitted his nomination. Shirley A. Emmerich, N9JKB, was participating in an ARES exercise near Tomahawk, Wisconsin, at the time of her death. She died in February 1992 of cardiac arrest. Her nomination was submitted by Walter T. Dieter, N9CLE.

We ask for your help in identifying other Amateur Radio operators who died in an Amateur Radio related public service activity. Nominators must provide the following information: a copy of the death certificate of the nominee; media clippings documenting the death of the nominee; a signed written letter or other document requesting that the nominee's name be included on the monument with information regarding circumstances surrounding the death, the nominee's call sign and other details of importance to the nominator. Include contact information so committee members may follow up with nominators.

Today, as it was in this quote from a 1989 packet message, "to be qualified for inclusion on the monument, the deceased must have died while performing as part of an Amateur Radio communication network that was not part of a military action." That is, this award is for amateurs who died as civilians.

Nominations should be mailed to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

You belong to an exemplary avocation recognized internationally for its contributions to humankind. Tell these stories to others. Discover what you can of our heritage. Reflect on September 11, 2001 and prepare yourself to respond to future communication needs by becoming active in programs such as ARES, RACES and the National Traffic System. Should you have stories you'd like to share regarding the history of Amateur Radio and public service, the author would be delighted to hear them.

Surprisingly, there were no nominations from the early and middle decades of the 20th century. As the Convention approached, the Monument Committee reviewed nominations and documentation. Nominations were cut off on July 31 in preparation for the official dedication ceremony, which was scheduled for the Saturday of the Convention, August 24.

Before the dedication, the last few details of monument construction were completed. A script for the bronze plate located at the base was agreed upon. Instead of focusing on the five groups that had fostered the idea of the monument, the script says: *This monument was conceived by Amateur Radio operators from the state of Michigan in order to perpetually honor those "hams" who died in service to the public.*

The Monument Committee discussed at some length an appropriate verse to be placed directly above the names of the deceased. The decision was made to use a line from a poem by Stephen Spender, "I Think Continually of Those who were Truly Great." The poem ends:

**Born of the sun they traveled
a short while towards the sun,
And left the vivid air signed
with their honor.**

The advocate for Spender's verse was Dave Norris, N8HKV. The Committee chose to have the text *Those recognized here left the "air" signed with their honor* inscribed in the Monument above information about the deceased.

The Ceremony

The formal dedication ceremony at which the ARRL accepted the monument and the names of those who would be the initial honorees took place at 2 PM. The program concluded with a somber reading of the names of each of the nominees and brief descriptions of the circumstances surrounding their deaths. David Sumner, K1ZZ, accepted the monument and offered remarks on behalf of the ARRL.

There is a special place situated in a grassy area in between the two main structures occupying the ARRL HQ grounds. Soft New England breezes gently caress tufts of grass there. The tufts of grass lie adjacent to concrete. The concrete forms the base of a granite monument. Not only is the granite etched with names of Amateur Radio operators who have given the ultimate sacrifice, but it is permeated with the aura, the essence, the intelligence and the will of all those who preceded them. Drop by ARRL Headquarters at 225 Main St, Newington, Connecticut, and soak it in.

Joe Turner, K8CQF, was Co-Chairman of the 1991 ARRL National Convention. You can reach him at 520 Jameson St, Saginaw, MI 48602; K8CQF@arrl.net.



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

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

2016 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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