



# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the  
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

October 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:**

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 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. Dates 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 November has been canceled due to a conflict with SVARA board meeting. Visit the Ares website for more information.

**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 (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 (Olivia 8/500)</b> 3.583 MHz USB Tues, Thurs, Sat 8:00 PM

## **Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for October 5,2018**

The meeting was called to order by Mike N8XPS, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 12 members present.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the Harmonic News and was seconded by Tom N8EUI. The motion passed.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept both August and September treasurer's report as presented and was seconded by Dave W8DW. The motion passed.

Mike N8XPS, gave a report on the Emergency Preparedness Expo. There were less vendors than previously but there was still a good variety. We had 17 visiting hams along with one hopeful soon to be test-taker. Quite a few members showed up to help and we had twice as many crew as other booths. We also found out the Genesee County preparedness group is interested in learning more about ham radio.

Minnie KD8PAZ, reported on upcoming swaps. Dave W8DW, reported on quite a few upcoming contests. Dave also discussed some repeater issues at the covenant North location. He discussed the need for a remote power switch to remotely reset equipment at the location.

It was mentioned the old Red Cross building is still for sale. Ron KC8YVF, was contacted about removing the remaining old tower sections from the property. This is the tower from the roof and is in such bad condition it has been deemed not worth keeping. Ron also discussed details of the upcoming state SET.

It was also mentioned that the FCC has deemed Boafang radios are not in compliance and has asked hams to stop using them. Wouxun brand radios were mentioned as a possible replacement.

Rick KC8VOA, suggested that the club look at updating the club Constitution. It was last updated in 1994. Rick also discussed the club's purpose and mission statement. Randy KE8AHW, mentioned the success that the Midland club had with their school club and suggested trying to have a ham radio activity at a local school.

Ron KC8YVF, gave a presentation on the new Ares connect volunteer hours system. This replaces the public service honor roll system that was used to track volunteer hours. You can still use the old system to report your hours to Ron. However, you must create an account on the new system first. Visit the Ares website or contact Ron for more information.

The motion to adjourn was made by Gordy KC8YVD, and seconded by Dave N8ERL.

## **Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for October 18, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mike KD8MMH, with Mike N8XPS, Dave W8DW, Doris KD8MMG, Tom N8EUI, Horst KD8ZXR, Mary WB8LZA, and Anne KB8AWE, present.

Tom N8EUI, 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**

Mike N8XPS, reported that he checked the Frankenmuth credit union account and there was approximately \$26 left in the account. The grant project groups then spent \$24 of that money on equipment for the hospital. He will see about closing the account. Mike also emailed the hospital about using the other conference room for the December meeting.

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

The Vice President was not present.

### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary was not present.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported we were getting low on checks and will order more checks as appropriate.

### **Chair's Report**

The Chair reported the new repeater link in Owosso has been finished. The last requirement of the Frankenmuth Credit Union grant was to link to the state Emergency Operations Center in Lansing. Now that this is complete Jeff KB8SWR, is looking into presenting the commemorative plaque to a credit union representative at an upcoming meeting. Mike also reported that Jim Wades was available for attendance at the Castle Museum and Children's Zoo for the upcoming Holiday in the Heart of the City event.

### **General Discussion**

The secretary was not present, but the Treasurer discussed some things on his behalf. The equipment removed from the Red Cross is still being stored in the his garage. It was decided that this equipment should be transferred to the club trailer after the Holidays in the Heart of the City event. A motion to that effect was made by Mike KD8MMH, and seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

A motion to provide accommodations and compensation for Jim Wades, similar to previous years was made by Dave W8DW, and seconded by Mike KD8MMH. The motion passed.

The motion to adjourn was made by Dave W8DW, and seconded by Tom N8EUI.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Elias K8AVJ  
Secretary

## ARRL News

# Successful Ham Radio Contact between Students and Space Station Excites and Inspires

"My best day as a teacher!" was educator Kathryn Craven's exuberant reaction following a successful October 22 ham radio contact between International Space Station (ISS) crew member Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, and youngsters at Ashford School in Ashford, Connecticut. ARRL Headquarters provided equipment for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRL](#))-sponsored event, and several ARRL Headquarters staffers were among those assisting in setting up the station, working with teachers, students, and the media, shooting photos, and offering other support.

The entire student body of the kindergarten-through-eighth grade school in northeastern Connecticut sat in rapt attention during the event, as a dozen of their classmates spoke directly to Auñón-Chancellor, who was at the helm of NA1SS on the ISS. Using ARRL's equipment, members of the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio

Association ([ECARA](#)) set up the Earth station (KZ1M), with technical and hands-on help from W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, who also assisted in summoning NA1SS for the approximately 10-minute pass.

One reporter asked Carcia what was being displayed on the large screen. "I explained that the program we were using -- *SatPC32* -- allowed us to see where the ISS is located and controlled the rotators with respect to our location," he said.

Some Ashford School students have been studying microgravity and are working on a research project that they hope will eventually be selected to be conducted on the ISS. Auñón-Chancellor, the Mission 56/57 flight surgeon, answered 16 student questions that ranged from "Do you wear sunscreen into space?" to "What is the hardest thing about having zero gravity?" and "How many flips can you do?"

Others attending on behalf of ARRL were ARRL Lifelong Learning Manager Kris Bickell, K1BIC; Lifelong Learning and Knowledge Department Administrator Ally Riedel, KM3ALF; ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN.

**W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, sets up Earth-station gear in advance of the ARISS event at Connecticut's Ashford School.**  
[Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, photo]

"It was great!" Patnode said afterward. "The space station responded right away, and everyone instantly got so excited."

Crews from four local television stations and print publication reporters joined an audience of more than 400.

**ECARA's Bernard Dubb, KD1DGY, holds the microphone as Amena Perry asks astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, her question.**  
[Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, photo]

"We are so incredibly grateful to ARISS, ECARA, and ARRL for making this possible for the entire Ashford School community," a statement on the [school's website](#) said.

"Our students were literally bursting with excitement at the end of the contact. Look out universe -- here comes the Mars generation!"

## Achieving a "Clean Sweep" is the Brass Ring of ARRL November Sweepstakes

[ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) is just ahead. The popular operating events -- one for CW and the other for phone (SSB) -- typically attract approximately 3,000 logs combined. For this 77th running ARRL November Sweepstakes, the CW event is November 3 - 5 (UTC), and phone is November 17 - 19 (UTC), each starting at 2100 UTC on that Saturday and running through 0259 UTC on that Monday. Stations may operate 24 of the available 30 hours. **Logs are due within 7 days after the event is over.** Last year saw 1,275 entries for the CW weekend, while the phone weekend attracted 1,674 logs.

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 hours available to operate. The number of sections worked is a score multiplier. Making a "clean sweep" is the goal of many SS aficionados -- working all 83 of the available US and Canadian multipliers, and qualifying for a clean sweep coffee mug. In the 2017 CW event, only 10 operators managed to work them all. Phone participants had better luck, with 78 clean sweeps. Last year,

Puerto Rico (PR) and the US Virgin Islands (VI) were still reeling from devastating hurricanes, making those sections rare.

At one time, the most difficult SS multiplier was Northern Territories (NT) in Canada, where J. Allen, VY1JA, in Yukon Territory, was often the only station available. That's changed now that the VY1JA station not only has been thoroughly upgraded but can be remotely operated (as VY1AAA), although by a Canadian operator, thanks to Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM, who told ARRL this week that VY1AAA is ready for SS action.

Other hard ones in 2017 appear to have been Alberta (AB), Northern New York (NNY), US Virgin Islands (VI), and Wyoming (WY).

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), although that challenge is more daunting at this point in the solar cycle.

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## SS and the Traffic-Handling Tradition

[ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) is the oldest domestic radiosport event (the first was in 1930). The SS contest exchange has deep roots in message-handling protocol and replicates a radiogram preamble. In SS, stations exchange:

- A **consecutive serial number** (NR). Operators do *not* have to add leading zeros on numbers less than 100.
- **Operating category** -- **Q** for Single Operator, QRP; **A** for Single Operator, Low Power (up to 150 W output); **B** for Single Operator, High Power (greater than 150 W output); **U** for Single Operator, 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](#).

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"Casual operators are very important to SS, so I would advise that if you come across [operators] who just want to help you out with a QSO, take the time to walk them through the proper exchange sequence, and encourage them to work other stations and to submit a log," said now-retired SS Manager Larry Hammel, K5OT. "Your patience might be rewarded with a motivated op next year!"

The SS *Operating Guide* package, available for [download](#), explains how to participate in the Sweepstakes, including all rules and examples of log formatting. Read [more](#). -  
- *Thanks to Gerry Hull, W1VE; Larry Hammel, K5OT, and Bart Jahnke, W9JJ*

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



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