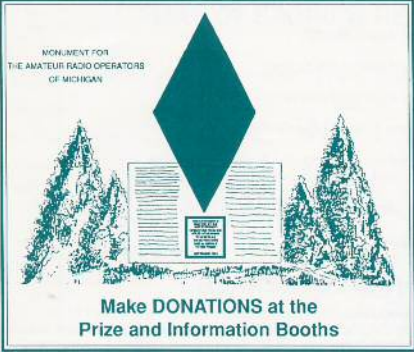




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MAKE YOUR CALendars TRAVEL YOUR POUNDS

The Monument shown above, designed by the Bay Monument Company, Bay City, Michigan, consisted of the ARRL Diamond mounted on an "M" shaped base ("M" as in Michigan). Inscribed on it were the names of known amateur operators who died while on duty in an emergency service operation. A formal dedication was made at 2 pm on the Saturday of the Convention. During a solemn ceremony a list of the names to be first inscribed on the monument were read. So that a larger part of the amateur radio community could participate, those who had nominated the inductees were invited to say a few words about the deceased were offered on an HF net at noon as W1AW/8 Participants included: WC8Z, Nancy serving as net control. Check-ins speaking WD4D/WA4I, KB5IBQ, W7WFO/W7BQ, WA5YQI, W7FF, N7AGG, WA4WND and KP0ON. Source: Original log of WC8Z. A standing committee of the 5 clubs exists to this day to review new nominations. The last recorded nominations were in 2005. It may be wise to coordinate with each club and the ARRL to verify that past practices should continue. The first operator to die is listed in the book 200 meters and down. To the best of my knowledge his name was overlooked originally and never included.

By Joseph M. Turner, K8CQF

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.



QST December 2002 1

\$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 Hugen 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, K8ONX (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, N8JKB, 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. 

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND ACTIVATION

Members of SVARA have excelled in providing emergency communications. They've been principle authors of the amateur radio (RACES/ARES) portion of the State of Michigan's modern Emergency Response Plans. Their expertise and reliable communication performance have resulted in a long list of accomplishments

MAJOR EMERGENCY RESPONSES BY SVARA

- ★ The 1953 Flint–Beecher tornado was an F5 tornado that struck Flint and the Beecher district on June 8, 1953, killing 116 people and injuring 844, making it the deadliest tornado in Michigan history.



- ★ Capital Airlines Flight 67 crashed near Tri-City Airport (now MBS International Airport) in Freeland, Michigan, on April 6, 1958, killing all 47 people on board during a severe snowstorm. The probable cause was undetected ice on the horizontal stabilizer leading to loss of pitch control.

- ★ The floods of 1986 in mid-Michigan damaged approximately 10,000 residential structures within the city of Saginaw, Michigan alone. There was widespread flooding throughout the entire mid-Michigan area
- ★ Hurricane Gilbert was a large and extremely powerful tropical cyclone that formed during the 1988 Atlantic hurricane season, which peaked as a Category 5 hurricane. The storm brought widespread destruction to the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, and is tied with 1969's Hurricane Camille as the third-most intense tropical cyclone at landfall in the Atlantic Ocean. SVARA's members monitored communications and passed traffic when appropriate.

- ★ Per United Press International: About 12.20 pm July 22, 1989 “a CSX freight train carrying chemicals derailed and caught fire Saturday in rural Saginaw County, spewing a cloud of toxic fumes that sent 17 people to hospitals and forced evacuations, authorities said. 'It's a very hot fire,' said Gary Black, a spokesman for Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, where the 32-car train was en route from Port Huron. 'The Dow emergency response team has advised them to just pull back and let it burn.'"
- ★ 1989-1990+/- George Race, WB8BGY and ARRL Section leadership successfully combine the Michigan's ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) membership and the Federal RACES program's membership into one coordinated emergency response team placing SVARA members in leadership positions. By combining the two groups competition between members of the two was eliminated and state and local emergency management officials were no longer confused about which ham radio group should be activated.
- ★ SVARA member N8JAT, George Schemm, spent months preparing a data base of standard placards placed on railroad, truck and other transportation and storage locations of dangerous materials for distribution. The critical warnings, and response information each placard provided could be accessed in real time via packet radio net works across America.



- ★ The 1986 Mexico City earthquake occurred on September 19, 1985, with a magnitude of 8.1, causing significant destruction and resulting in 5,000 to 45,000 deaths and around 30,000 injuries. It was one of the most devastating earthquakes in the city's history, leading to extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure.
- ★ Following up on the recommendations found in the ARRL's ANERCOM Report by Mr Jimmy Walker, WD4HZL in a 1989 critique of Hurricane Hugo relief operations, in 1990 Michigan's ARES/RACES leadership Selected the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association and its club station to become the first “Gateway” station in the nation.

CITY OF SAGINAW
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

TO Wally Rogalski
SUBJECT Jamaican Ham Radio Messages

FROM Joe Turner
DATE September 21, 1988

On Wednesday evening September 14, 1988 Michigan ARRL officials requested that the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association accept an appointment as the state's designated radio message outlet for inquiries about the health and welfare of Jamaica's residents and U.S. citizens on the island devastated by hurricane Gilbert. SVARA Vice President Ron Huber and President Don LaBrenz gave the go ahead and Mr. John Bumstead, Saginaw County Red Cross Director agreed to provide a telephone line for calls from the public.

Calls began arriving Thursday morning at the Red Cross's office from throughout the state and as far away as Chicago. A meeting was held among the amateur radio operators at noon Thursday where it was determined that due to equipment malfunction at the Red Cross amateur radio station, and because of the superior antenna installation at the City's Water Treatment Plant, radio operations would be moved there. Several tries to make contact from the Red Cross building with Jamaican relief stations were attempted - but each failed.

On Friday evening the first successful transfer of messages from Saginaw's station occurred from the Water Treatment Plant radio facility. That station once again proved the value of its superior antennas when it was the first station to be recognized among a large number of stations from the Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia call area who were all calling simultaneously. A significant fact concurrent with the strength of its signal, was that



CITY OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
CITY HALL - 116 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE - SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48601

October 13, 1986

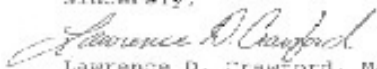
Dear R.A.C.E.S. Volunteers:

On behalf of the citizens of Saginaw, I would like to thank you and the many individuals who have worked tirelessly for the protection and welfare of our community during the recent flooding.

Because of your selfless efforts, a bad situation was not allowed to become worse.

Your exceptional service has earned you the gratitude of our community.

Sincerely,


Lawrence D. Crawford, Mayor
and Members of the City Council

Hams monitor hurricane

Local radio operators help aid victims of Gilbert's wrath

As Hurricane Gilbert wreaks a path of destruction through the Gulf of Mexico and the U.S. Gulf Coast, local ham radio operators are assisting in the effort to aid victims of the storm.

The Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association has been monitoring phone lines and radio frequencies since Wednesday in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

"The association is handling messages from throughout Michigan, and even getting requests from Chicago, in regards to the Jamaican relief effort," said association member Joseph Turner of 423 N. Granger.

Association member Jan LaBrenz of Bay City said the group has taken about 45 messages from local people who are concerned about family members or friends in Texas, Louisiana, Cancun and Jamaica. The group has been trying to relay those messages to other operators in the weather-battered areas.

The hurricane, considered one of the strongest ever, has left over 500,000 Jamaicans homeless.

Association President Don LaBrenz said, "There have been very few messages from out of Jamaica. Out of some 167 ham operators working there, only about three or four are actively transmitting...and that's because they have been lucky enough to get their hands on a battery."

"We have been asked to help gather as much information as we can."

The outer perimeter of Hurricane Gilbert is expected to reach that area later today.

For radio association Vice-President Ron Huber, the group's efforts are reminiscent of when it extended a life-line to victims of the earthquake that rocked Mexico City in September 1985.

"I get a sense of satisfaction out of helping people," said Huber of 7135 Bradley. "We had a lot of success in helping in the Mexico City earthquake, and God forbid this hurricane should be as bad, but we will help in any capacity we can."

"Sure, it's a bit frustrating," said Turner. "But that's what amateur radio is all about. It has its rewards, especially when you get off the phone after providing someone with a little information that will put their mind at ease."

"I can relate to how they would feel if I were in their position."

According to Turner, group members were able to pick up transmissions from the Jamaicans regarding emergency medical and food supplies Wednesday evening.

He said the organization expects requests for welfare and health aid.

"These people care, they are making a good impact on the community. They are offering hope for people who are in distress," said Turner.

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Cordially,

Danny Dambro

Danny Dambro
President

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Following up on the recommendations found in the ARRL's ANERCOM Report by Mr Jimmy Walker, WD4HZL in a 1989 critique of Hurricane Hugo relief operations, in 1990 Michigan's ARES/RACES leadership Selected the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association and its club station to become the first "Gateway" station in the nation.



A Gateway station is the single point of contact within a state used when a major disaster happens. It provides telephone access, a single call sign for other operators to seek out, specific clear frequency assignments for operations within the state, and frequencies and time for national and international stations to have reliable access, it provides transmission paths for nets, packet operators and others. Importantly, it provides coordination and efficiency through the utilization of a single point of contact for leadership and source information for government and official respondent agencies.

A Gateway station is the single point of contact within a state when a major disaster happens. It provides a single call sign for other operators to seek out, it provides frequency assignments for operations within the state, it provides nets, packet operators and others with a trusted source. Importantly, it provides a single point of telephone contact for government agencies and others.

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M
AMATEUR.TV <DIR> ANTENNAS <DIR> ARES <DIR> ARES-SAS <DIR>
ARES.DAT <DIR> DSPOLICY <DIR> DATABASE.0 106K DATABASE.400 4963
DB-ADD.HLP 2877 DB-FILE.FLN 501 DX-BULLS <DIR> FINDER <DIR>
GUIDE <DIR> GUIDES 144K HAM-SATS <DIR> HAZMAT 105K
HAZMAT.DOC 1573 HIST-D3 <DIR> HOMEREM <DIR> IEM <DIR>
LICENSES <DIR> MAPS <DIR> MEDIA <DIR> MORN <DIR>
MISC <DIR> NTS <DIR> ORBITAL <DIR> PACKET <DIR>
PHONE.S <DIR> PROGRAMS <DIR> SCENARIO <DIR> SVARA <DIR>
TRAINING <DIR> TRS00 <DIR> WORLD.BBS 62703 WK <DIR>
>
DM HAZMAT.DOC
TO USE THE HAZMAT FILE ENTER <CR>. THE EBS WILL PROMPT YOU FOR A FILE NAME
ENTER HAZMAT<CR>. IT WILL THEN PROMPT YOU FOR A SEARCH ARGUMENT. ENTER
THE CHEMICAL PLACARD NUMBER (AS FOUND ON THE SIDES OR END OF THE TANKER)
OR ENTER ALL OR PART OF THE CHEMICAL NAME. THE SYSTEM WILL READ THE HAZMAT
FILE SEARCHING FOR A MATCH TO THE SEARCH ARGUMENT YOU ENTERED. ALL MATCHING
RECORDS WILL BE PRINTED. THE FILE IS LAID OUT IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
CHEM\GUIDE\CHEMICAL NAME\SPECIAL EVACUATION OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

OBTAIN THE GUIDE NUMBER THEN END THE <G> COMMAND BY TYPING <CR> WHEN THE
SYSTEM ASKS FOR ANOTHER SEARCH ARGUMENT.

THEN AT THE > PROMPT ENTER D GUIDE\GUIDE# WHERE YOU REPLACE THE #
WITH THE GUIDE NUMBER YOU OBTAINED ABOVE. YOU MAY WANT TO OPEN YOUR
CAPTURE BUFFER AS THIS IS THE FILE THAT GUIDES YOU ON WHAT TO DO.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT UNLESS YOU ARE TRAINED IN HANDLING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
YOU SHOULD KEEP AWAY FROM THEM. DO NOT TOUCH THE MATERIAL. STAY AWAY FROM
THE FUMES OR VAPORS. STAY UPWIND AND OUT OF LOW AREAS. LET THOSE TRAINED
TO DEAL WITH THESE MATERIALS DO THEIR JOB.

IF NECESSARY, CALL CHEMTREC AT 1-800-424-9200 FOR ASSISTANCE.
GUIDE INFO FOR MORE DIRECTIONS ON CONTACTING CHEMTREC.

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1987 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK. EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A COPY. MADE TO BE
ACCURATE, BUT THIS INFORMATION IS PRESENTED WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY OF
FITNESS OR CORRECTNESS FOR ANY PURPOSE.

LET'S HOPE WE NEVER HAVE TO USE THIS INFORMATION. DE GEORGE N8JAT
    
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In another first, George Schemm, N8JAT spent months creating a bulletin board for users of packet radio across the U.S. The board provided ham radio operators with access to critical emergency response data for each of the standard warning placards placed on transport vehicles such as trains and trucks. The info could be quickly accessed and shared with emergency management personnel. Dennis Klipa, N8ERF a PhD chemist provided such information to firefighters over the SVARA fire after listening to chemical firefighting activities in Flint, Michigan.

The Packet Radio bulletin to the right is an example of one message sent nationwide to instruct amateur radio operators on how to access the information.