



CITY OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

CITY HALL - 1315 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE - SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48601

October 13, 1986

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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence D. Crawford".

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

One little known story that reflects the emergency preparation of SVARA members in RACES/NTS/ARES took place on the west side of the state. A preteen girl had been kidnaped and SVARA members were among a number of amateur radio operators who volunteered to look through a local forest for her. SVARA's long experience in emergency nets was used during the search. One of the searchers had a heart attack in the forest. Net control was given to a SVARA rep who worked with amateurs carrying the casualty from the point of injury a quarter mile or so to the nearest road. Net Control also was required to coordinate the ambulance to the hard to find location.

FUN STUFF



Don Kirchner, prepares the SVARA float for the annual PRIDE parade. The club made contacts using an HF dipole as they were pulled along the parade route.

Club members also erected an antenna in a boxcar of a train pulled by engine 1225 out of Durand, Michigan. The engine became famous as the source of railroad sounds in an annual Christmas movie.



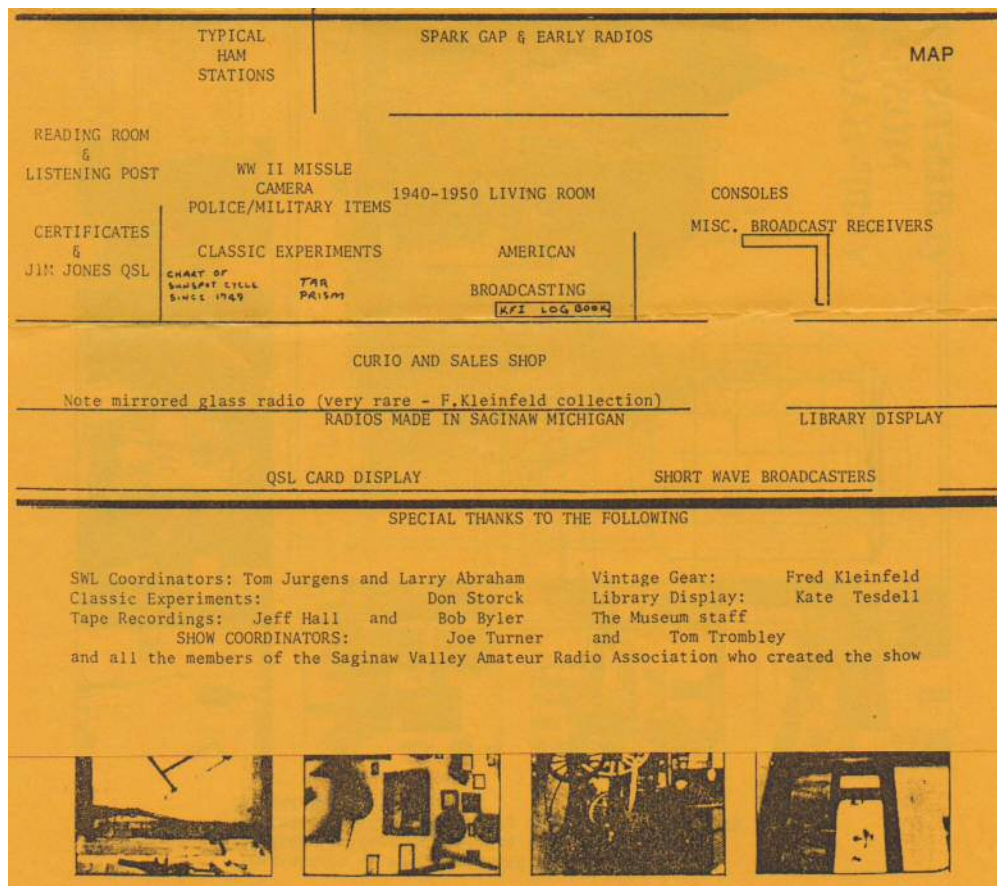
Gordon Schram, KC8YVD, and Bob Tuttle, N8YXR had an outstanding turn-out for their amateur radio program Tuesday, March 7th. At Wickes and Claytor libraries. Four volunteers from SVARA graciously donated their time and equipment to provide a PowerPoint presentation about amateur radio, a demonstration of Morse code, and gave participants a chance to make a contact over the club's repeater.

Richard V. Miller, W8KNB, was a junior high school teacher at Webber School in the city of Saginaw. He personally trained scores of youngsters using WW II navy CW tapes and teaching theory himself.



FUN STUFF - A Museum Show

QSL CARDS, TRULY RARE RADIOS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RADIO

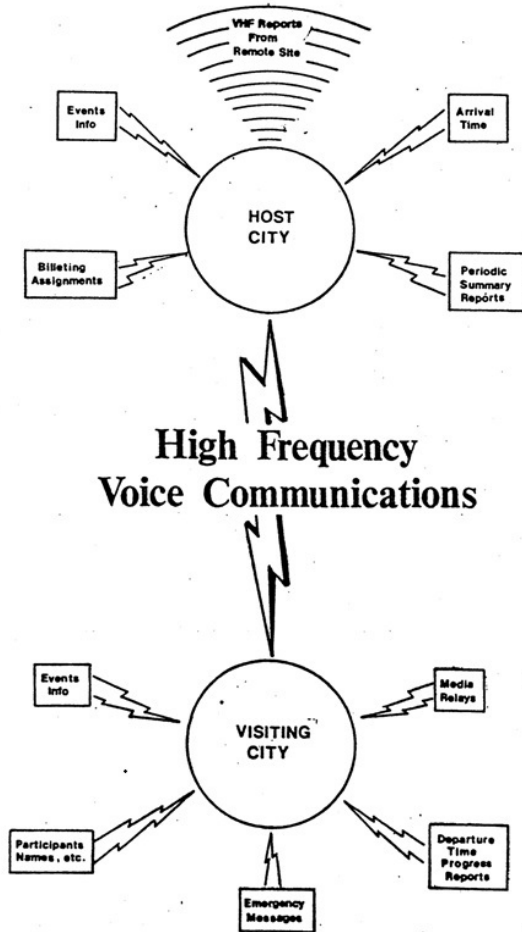


SVARA members invited area amateur radio operators to bring in old gear for an especially well received, two month long display of antique radios at the Saginaw County Historical Museum's Castle Station. Media coverage included television, radio and print media.



Fun Stuff

FRIENDSHIP GAMES COMMUNICATION PROPOSAL



The Friendship Games were one of scores of athletic competitions between cities in Canada and the U.S. Saginaw and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario formally began theirs in 1977. The annual event ended in 1999.

The Games were a wonderful success story. As many as 600 children traveled from one city to the other annually. They stayed as guests in the homes of the host city. Adults would travel too. Many friendships, some marriages and a ton of good times happened over the almost quarter century of exchanges.

Ham radio operators from both cities worked the Games. There were two types of messages utilized during the Friendship Games: organizational messages needed prior to the actual games and messages needed during the Games. Both had two elements: Specific messages which detailed facts such as the time or location of an event; the other were non-specific (e.g. messages seeking discussion of a future activity or exchanges of ideas. Health and welfare messages could be handle by amateur operators, but messages involving a death or some critical information was handled by some other more appropriate agency.

A routine message sent via radio teletype on June 24, 1980 stated: "The Friendship Games have been tremendously successful this year in Saginaw, with over 2500 people trying to find a place on our teams." The message was sent by Saginaw's Office of Information to Matt Thorpe in the "Soo's" Parks and Recreation Department. SVARA member, Ken Wymer, WB8VYN drove the almost 3 hour trip from Saginaw to the Soo to set up the radio telephone station one evening after his regular work hours for a private company were completed. Ken exemplified the best of SVARA's volunteers.

Fun Stuff

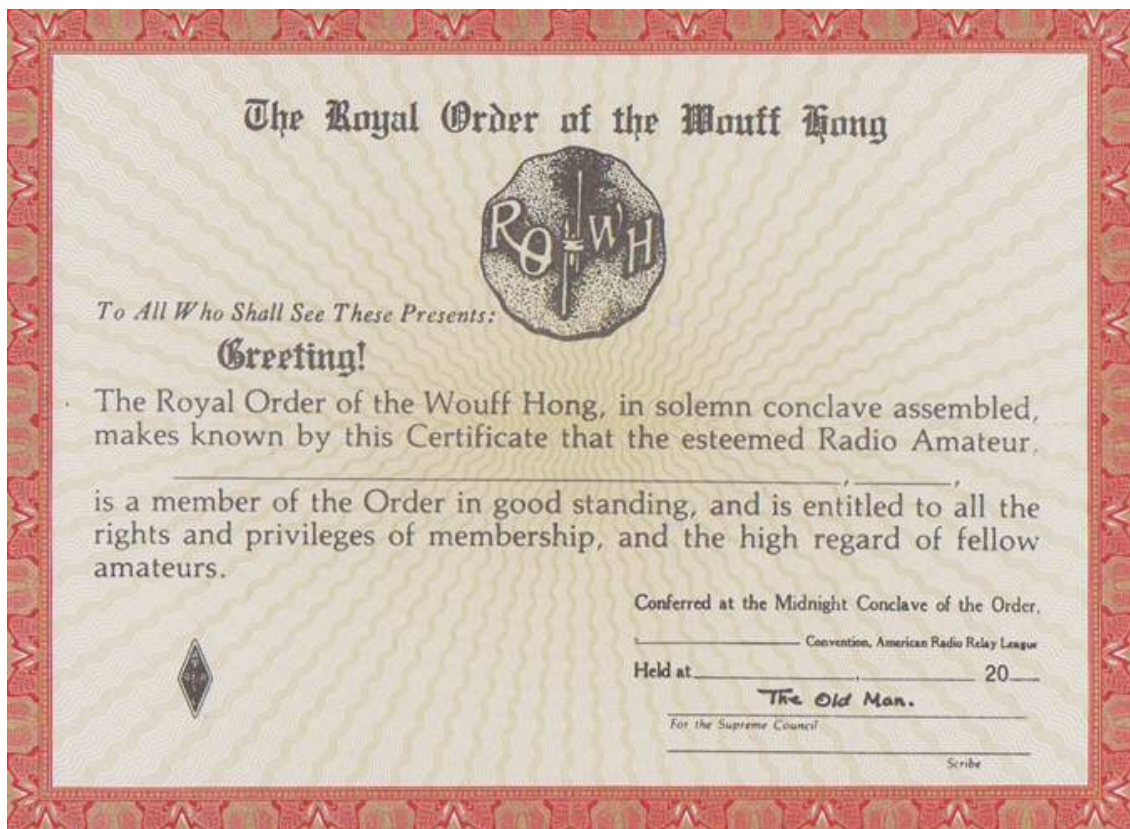
Creating Goodwill - Friendship Games



SVARA provided communication for about 25 years in an annual goodwill competition between the cities of Sault Ste. Marie Ontario and Saginaw Michigan. The cities rotated as host for 600 or so, youngsters and adults who lived with citizens of the host city. This international communication effort has been the subject of several magazine and newspaper reports. It resulted in an invitation to participate as

guest lectures during a Canadian.' U.S. symposium for committees from various jurisdictions sponsoring similar sister city competitions.

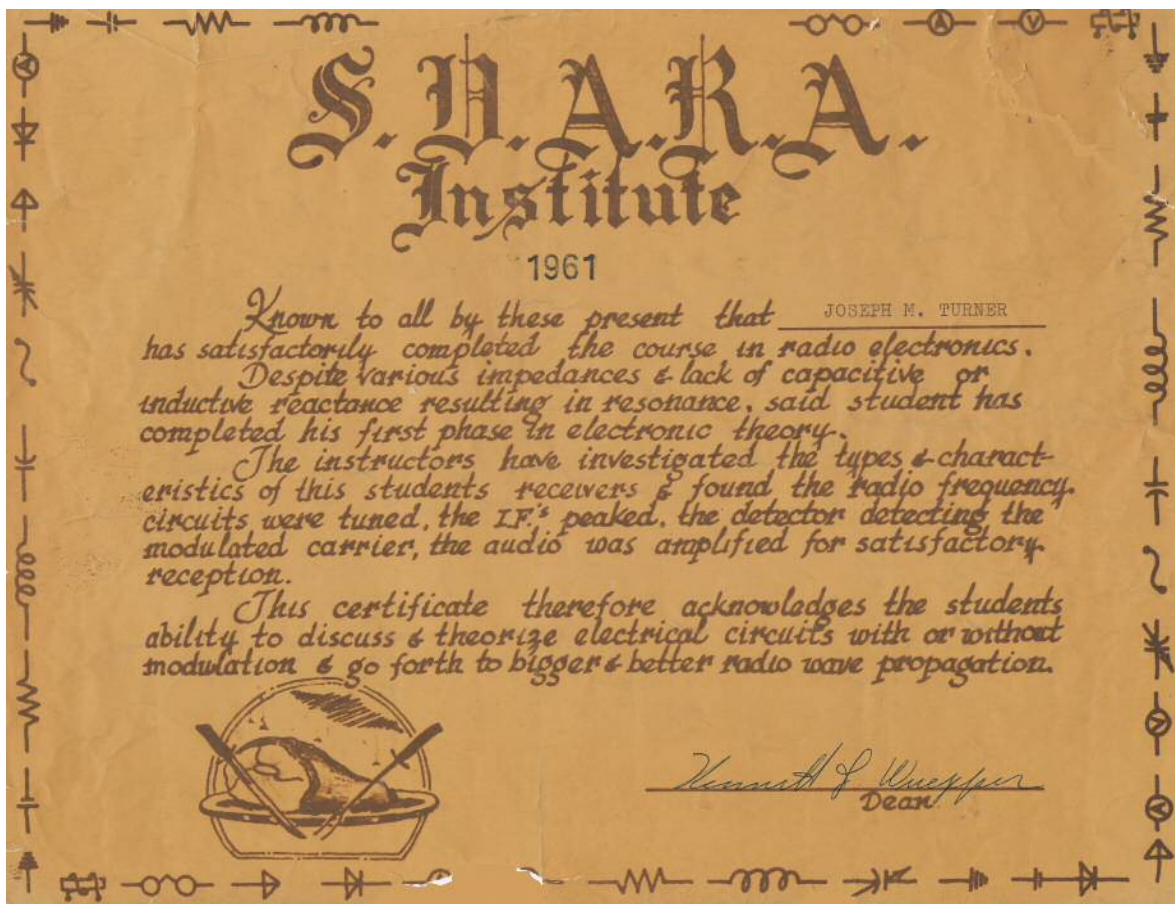
Then there was the Secret Induction during an ARRL Convention



Fun Stuff

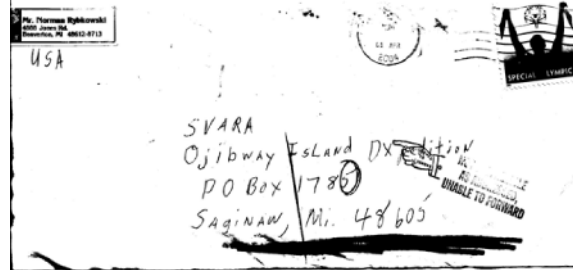
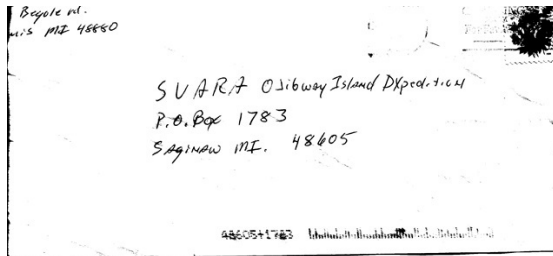
SVARA TRAINED MANY IN ELECTRICAL THEORY AND MORSE CODE

A CERTIFICATE OF CLASS COMPLETION

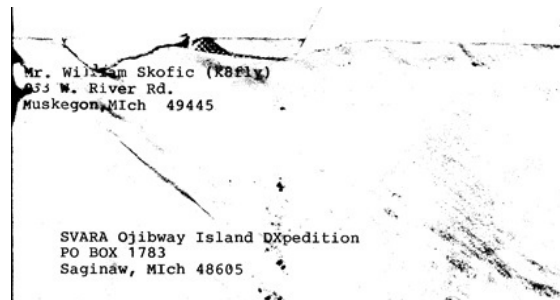
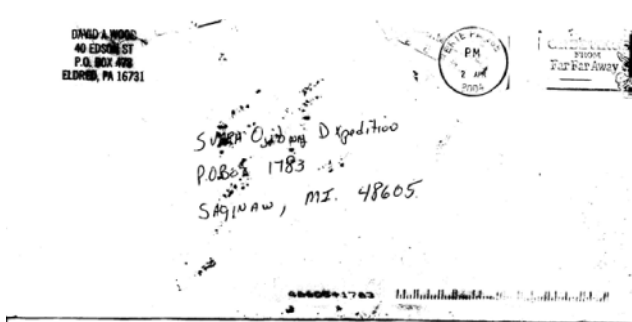


Fun Stuff

OJIBWAY ISLAND DXpedition



As you may know, there are rabid hunters of QSL cards from rare and exotic islands around the world. SVARA members got permission one year to use Ojibway Island as an operating site on April 1st. Hmmm. April 1st eh? How about a little tomfoolery? The club sent early announcements to appropriate magazines and outlets. The island's location was described in degrees Latitude and Longitude and the April 1st date was cited as the only day of operation. There were a ton of stations seeking a QSL card on that day. Linda Duncan, WD8JNQ, drew quite a few operators with her female voice and a British like accent.



Fun Events - Creating Goodwill

SVARA members have volunteered many times and in many schools to demonstrate amateur radio. We also tried to keep the tradition alive within local scouting groups. Here is the one document I had at my finger tips.

