

UNIQUE INFO

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

SVARA ACTIVITIES HAVE MONETARY VALUE - ONE ESTIMATE

SVARA Contributions to Community		1956 - 2005	Unit Value	Contribution
Number of individuals trained in electronics	500		\$100	\$50,000.00
Skywarn Nets and other community communication Networks			\$10	\$240,000.00
Estimated Days	600			
Average volunteers per event	10			
Average volunteer hours per event	40			
Friendship Games Contributions				
Average volunteers	24			
Volunteer hours per event	864	20 yrs	\$10	\$172,800.00
Friendship Games Contributions				
Responses to actual local emergencies				
Tourism and Community Promotions				
	Attendees	Days		
State and Division Conventions	1200	7	\$100	\$1,200,000.00
(\$30/day tourist expense & \$70 purchases)				
National Convention	4000	3	\$210	\$8,400,000.00
(\$110 tourist expenses and \$100 equipment)				
5 County Swaps and Hobby Expo	800	10	\$75	\$600,000.00
(\$30/day tourist expense & \$45 purchases)				
Total Tourism Generated			\$10,200,000.00	
Direct Contributions to Public Library System				\$500
Books purchased and donated				
Contributions to community groups				
Saginaw City, County and James Twp				
Equipment				\$2,500
Repairs and Maintenance	5	500	\$10	\$25,000
Volunteers during tests	12	25		
Volunteer hours in tests	2		\$10	\$6,000.00
American Red Cross				
Repairs and Maintenance	5	250	\$10	\$12,500
Approximate Contributions				\$10,709,300.00

Footnote: The selection of an hourly rate is dependent upon the skill of the volunteer force. Within this group, choices range from minimum wage to wages physicians, truck drivers, computer experts and company officers make. \$10 is the rate recommended by the ARRL.

Community

leaders recognize the value of the amateur radio service and are willing to generously give back when grants are requested. The following info is one of several significant grants SVARA has secured. Ron Huss and your current leadership have shown extraordinary grantsmanship skills.

DONATION FUND (Water Plant Station)			
SOURCE	RECEIVED	SPENT	DISCRIPTION
Saginaw Community Fdtn.	1500.00	1552.00	HF Rig--TS930
Delco Moraine Div. GM	1000.00	185.00	Dentronics Packett TNC ?
Fordney Club	200.00	553.60	Mich Radio-2 Meter Rig
United Comm. Trav.	250.00	20.00	Shipping for Above Items
Michigan Bell	100.00		>250' RG8U, 250' Rotor
Saginaw Womens Club	100.00	1035.00<--<	Cable, THDX-7 HF Beam,
Rotary Club	150.00		>Ham M-IV Rotor
WNEM TV 5	50.00	50.00	2 Meter Rotor
Downtown Kiwanis Club	155.00	100.00	Tower from Fred Tinsley
DR. & Mrs. O'Connor	200.00	136.00	340' Belden Coax & Conns.
Art Penney	16.5	5.44	Soldering Gun
Roney & Co. -- JCP	314.00	228.00	500' 9913 Coax & Shipping
RAND	0.00	300.00	Amplifier
TRAVIS PER	0.00	<155.00>	1541 Disk Drive
Totals	3721.50	4320.04	4320.04
Balance----> -284.54- 598.54			

UNIQUE INFO - A Lawsuit to stop intentional interference

MICHIGAN HAMS RECEIVE \$7500.00 IN INTERFERENCE LAWSUIT

LOSERS AGREED TO GIVE UP OPERATING PRIVILEGES

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1983, CIVIL (NOT CRIMINAL) LAWSUITS SEEKING DAMAGES IN EXCESS OF \$10000 EACH, WERE FILED BY THE SAGINAW VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED (KBDAC) AND DR. DENNIS O'CONNOR (K8DO) AGAINST ACBA, WBBINH, and WA2SFT IN CIRCUIT COURT AT SAGINAW MICHIGAN.

ACTIONS AGAINST WA2SFT WERE EVENTUALLY DROPPED DUE TO AN INABILITY TO LOCATE HIM.

ON MAY 3, 1989 A STATEMENT BETWEEN THE REMAINING PARTIES WAS REACHED.

ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT, A TOTAL OF SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7500) WILL BE AWARDED TO SVARA AND DR. O'CONNOR.

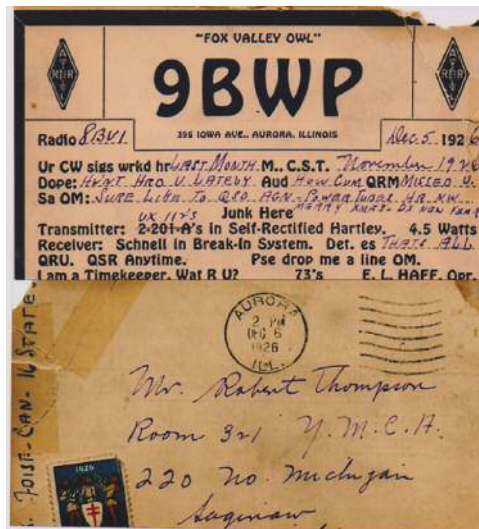
FURTHERMORE, ACBA HAS AGREED TO RELINQUISH ALL AMATEUR OPERATING PRIVILEGES FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, THOUGH HE MAY RETAIN HIS LICENSE.

WBBINH HAS AGREED NOT TO OPERATE THROUGH ANY REPEATER LOCATED IN MICHIGAN'S SAGINAW, MIDLAND, OR BAY COUNTIES.

ACBA AND WBBINH HAVE BOTH STIPULATED THAT NEWS RELEASES OF THE SETTLEMENT TERMS MAY BE MADE TO THE MEDIA AS LONG AS ONLY THEIR AMATEUR RADIO CALLS (NOT THEIR NAMES) ARE USED.

RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION MAY 4, 1989
BY SAGINAW VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 1785
SAGINAW, MI. 48605-1785

A truly old time
years ago these



QSL Card. Exactly 100
fellows chatted.

BobThompson, 8BVI Receives QSL

Media Coverage, Articles and Awards

Ken, NA8G, was a totally blind member of SVARA. Ken possessed an exceptional memory and developed legendary morse code skills. He often held conversations with his cohorts during contests while listening to cw transmissions. Ken knew if a potential contact had been worked earlier, he knew they exchange the contact was giving and any necessary relevant part of the contact.

Operating ham radio a lesson in geography

News Staff Writer

One day about three years ago, 25-year-old Kenneth Graf decided he needed to brush up on his German.

Instead of pulling out a German textbook or popping a language cassette into the tape deck, Graf, who is blind, did the logical thing any amateur radio operator would have done.

He tinkered with the knobs on his one-station radio system and signaled Germany.

"I wanted to speak some German, so I called Germany," said Graf, of 3066 Jackson, and a member of the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association. "I said, 'CQ Germany' and finally a guy answered."



An admitted "radio nut," Kenneth Graf talks on his "ham" radio system.

News Staff: Jim Johnson

Members of the radio club will demonstrate their "ham" radio skills at their annual field days from 2 p.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Sunday at H. Randall Wickes Park.

group will compete with ham operators across the country to see which amateurs can successfully complete the most exchanges of information in a 24-hour period with the aid of only power generators.

Joseph Turner, president of the club, said, "It's more of a social event for us rather than a competition."

"We want to prove that amateur radio operators can operate under adverse conditions and op-

erate without customary power," said Turner, 37, of 423 N. Granger.

Amateur radio is similar to commercial radio in that it also uses the atmosphere to carry its signal.

Graf, who calls himself a "radio nut," said a neighbor introduced him to amateur radio nine years ago. He said that one point he used his radio system "day in and day out."

Graf said his handicap does not inhibit his radio-operating skills. He said he uses his touch and hearing senses to operate his equipment. He also has plans to build some of his equipment.

In his 15 years of "serious" ham radio operating, G. Ed King, of Birch Run, has talked to people from 28 countries on the three systems he owns.

"It's a geography lesson," said the 34-year-old retiree from Saginaw State College. "I've learned more about people of the world through my radio."

Ward Whalin, of 2006 Kollen, has operated amateur radios for 26 years. It wasn't until three years ago, however, that he began working the Military Affiliate Radio System.

About 99 percent of the information transmitted on the military radio system is related to the armed forces, said the 67-year-old Whalin.

He said that the military system, which is based in Washington, D.C., transmits messages from soldiers based as far away as Okinawa and Japan.

Whalin, a retiree from Baker Perkins, said he transmits messages from servicemen to their families and that holidays, naturally, are especially busy times for the military radio system.

Ham operators must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission before they can use the airwaves, Turner said, adding that there are about 400,000 enthusiasts in the U.S.

The four classes of licenses are novice technician, general class, extra class, and advanced class.

Even though this weekend's event is a practice test to see how ham operators would handle radio communication after a tornado or earthquake, it is also a chance for the ham operators to meet other amateurs, King said.

"Face to face and ham to ham, we're all pretty much just ordinary people," King said.

SVARA's repeater system was well known within the amateur community and received media coverage from time-to-time. It is impossible to recite the list of the dedicated volunteers who created an exceptional system and kept it operating at all times of the years, in good weather and bad.

Page 12

The Saginaw News

Sunday, August 22, 1978

CB Today

Amateur radio operators build booster system

By FRED E. GARETT
News Staff Writer



John McInnis

Saginaw area licensed amateur radio operators have built an automatic emergency booster system in conjunction with a national civil defense unit and police agencies.

The unit, built with equipment donated by Saginaw County's civil defense unit, is located in the basement of the Saginaw County Jail.

It will boost amateur radio signals and help licensed operators to use special portable radio units that are similar to but less powerful than citizens band (CB) units.

Cost of these portable, two-meter units is about \$200 — same as a CB unit. But using the unit takes a federal license and special training.

The Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association (SVARA) members spent hundreds of hours and contributed about two toward the booster," said SVARA member John J. McInnis (W8JTV), 28, of 1805 Canada Way, Birch Run.

"The booster, which will be under the command of civil defense and police agencies during emergencies and disasters, gives amateur radio operators the ability to talk through buildings and other blockages in a 35-mile radius around Saginaw," said McInnis.

The project, dreamed up 18 months ago by the SVARA members, is tied in with the national Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES). The booster is in operation 24 hours a day.

"The booster unit can be reached on 147.34 megacycles," said McInnis. "That's the frequency the automatic unit uses in listening for signals from amateur operators," he said.

McInnis said the booster unit catches the signal, boosts it, changes the frequency to 147.24 megacycles and beams messages out "loud and clear."

When there is a disaster — such as the March 2 ice storm — a specially-picked experienced SVARA member, Earl Ross (W8CTV), 220 S. Charles, Saginaw, goes to the jail and takes command of the booster. He clears all non-emergency signals and relays only emergency messages.

With special equipment — which the SVARA has installed — the Saginaw RACES emergency unit could be used in conjunction with a nationwide system of other RACES emergency boosters to give local operators better communication with low-power units everywhere, McInnis said.

"We completed the booster unit July 1. Now, after testing — it is ready to help amateur radio operators with their communication on hand-carried, mobile and fixed

stations," McInnis said.

It gives low-power units much greater range and clarity in transmission," he said. McInnis said SVARA President William Lutz (W8BWC), 529 N. Hooper, St. Charles, sanctioned the idea as one of the club's greatest accomplishments.

"That thing makes broadcasting a lot more enjoyable and understandable. It also saves signals across 'dead spots' in the communication system," McInnis said.

**AUTO
ALARMS**

Protect your CB, Radio, Tape Deck, etc.

MIGHTY RED II
Professionally \$119
Installed

**RADIO CENTRAL
ALARM CO.**
792-2241
Call Anytime

**ASTRO
TUNE-UP
CENTERS**

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A DECEASED MEMBER

One of the spin-offs from SVARA's participation in the Friendship Games, was exposure to a Canadian ceremony which SVARA has used in the past. When an amateur radio operator died in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, fellow amateur operators would send representatives to fire up his/her equipment for one last time. They would call a commemorative net to order, individuals would then say a few words about their cohort and the station would be shut down for the last time. Importantly, the call letters used for the net were the call letters of the deceased. Whenever possible the net was conducted from the decedent's home with his/her equipment.

Such a net was conducted for long time SVARA member, Richard Miller,, W8KNB. Dick Miller taught shop classes at Webber Junior High School and had a lunch hour radio club which provided many new members for SVARA over the years.

Example of the W8KNB final net:

QST, QST, QST {calling all stations}

This is the W8KNB memorial net. This net will be recorded so the family may hear your comments. Check-ins, please call now.

At this time we have the following check-ins. . . Are there any others? Call now.

The net is ready for transmissions. Stations wishing to check-in, please stand by until we call again for check-ins.

Our first station for comments is: The next station for comments will be . . .

.

Begin your comments. (Following the last known check-in's comments there is a call for new check-ins.)

Closing: The net is about to end. Are there any further check-ins? Hearing none, we will now close the memorial net for Silent Key, W8KNB. Thanks to all who have checked in. 73 and 88s

20 YEARS AGO THIS ADDRESS WAS GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE
SAGINAW VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC. AT IT'S

50th Anniversary June 6, 2006

Trillium Banquet Hall, Saginaw, Mi

Good Evening. I've been asked by Mr. DeLong to provide some background for tonight's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the incorporation of the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association. Quite frankly, this has been an intriguing assignment and you are an amazing group.

I'm sure many local citizens have no clue this club exists; yet you've contributed impressively to the local economy. Who would have guessed that amateur radio operators would have contributed more than \$10 Million to the local economy from tourism? The conventions and expositions you've hosted for electronic enthusiasts have drawn literally thousands of people to your home community.

To do this properly, one has to think about the history of communication in the world. That too has turned out to be a remarkable story. Your group was formally incorporated in 1956. Now, 1956 is very important date historically. For prior to 1956 there was no telephone service between Europe and the U.S. or for that matter, America and any other continent. It was in 1956 that the first undersea telephone cable was put into operation. Funny thing about that, the satellite era began with the launch of Sputnik. Think about 1956. Prior to that year there were absolutely zero minutes of intercontinental communication time. Communications were handled by either undersea telegraph cables or by radiotelephone. However, by 2004, people were expending more than 63 Billion, that's Billion, minutes in the U.S. each year engaged in international telephone conversations.

According to FCC records, six years later, in 1962 for the first time in U.S. history international service telephone revenues exceeded telegraph revenues for the first time. And just this month, I learned that telephones which use orbiting satellites have now dropped in price to a cost of only six or seven hundred dollars. Clearly, reliable communication via satellite is becoming cost effective as a standard communication technology.

Moreover, if one examines the regions to which communication links are commonly used, one finds that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of

minutes spent communicating between the U.S. and Asia. This of course follows substantial historic communication traffic flows between the U.S. and Europe and the U.S. and South America.

These facts illustrate the significant types of change you amateur radio enthusiasts have experienced in your life times. The change has been in technology and in life styles directly affected by the technological change.

Some of you in this room were born in the early 1900s. If it was before 1909, the hobby of amateur radio didn't exist. If before 1915, there had never been a recording of any kind of radio signal and women in the U.S. did not yet have the right to vote in a federal election. Life expectancies were almost 40 percent shorted at birth back then than they are today.

In the 1920s several members of the local community began investigating this new "wireless" and began gathering in each others homes to share information. Through that sharing, they learned how to make crystal controlled radios. Then they learned how to use newly available tubes or "valves". Then they learned that instead of sending a spark signal they could create a continuous wave or cw signal. Then they learned how to impose their voices on a "carrier frequency". Then they learned how to compress this AM signal so that the energy was compacted into a sideband. Then they learned how to eliminate static crashes by using a frequency modulated or FM signal. Then they began to experiment with computers, sending packets of information over the radio waves. They also learned how to send television signals and bounce signals off the moon. In fact, amateur radio operators were critical to the development of radio telescopes. Today, your members send messages using computer technology through the International Space Station and they help children talk to astronauts.

I encourage you to review all the wonderful literature your 50th Anniversary Committee has put together for you. In it you will discover that members of this club many times. It is amazing to learn that you, a small club located in the center of the state of Michigan have been nominated for a Presidential Award, have been cited by the Governor for your humanitarian contributions during international disasters, have had individuals selected for both national and statewide recognition and that you have become integral parts of emergency management's local response efforts.

One of the things that makes life fun is being around people that have a sense of humor. You club members certainly have that. The April first Ojibway Island which tested the attention levels of island hunters and your Broken Bridge special event operation which poked good natured fun at construction efforts surrounding Michigan's most expensive bridge are great examples.

Tonight, you will hear our featured speaker describe more specifically the development of radio communication within the state of Michigan. As much as any club in America, you members of the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association should be commended for your proud and noble traditions.

Most people think of amateur radio operators as technically oriented folks who mess around with electronics. You ham radio operators are known for your contributions in times of disaster and danger.

However, I think each of you should be applauded for your focus on community and youth. You've spent 50 years educating any community member who wanted to learn about electronics. You paved the way for your younger members to secure an education and scholarships. You've assisted in both large and small scale community activities with such success that a council of communities from two nations have asked for your help advice in implementing similar programs.

The amateur radio license is the only hobby governed by international treaty. It is granted in America to advance the electrical sciences, to assure there will always be a pool of skilled radio operators available in times of need and as a recognition and advancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service. Based upon the record, you've met these tests.

Congratulations and thank you for your service.

OOPS - ALMOST FORGOT

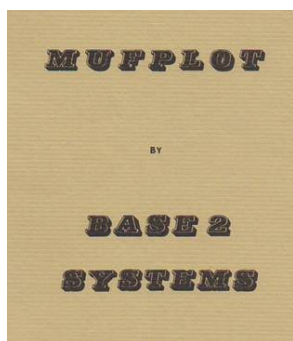
During the winter of the year 2000, SVARA members began to set up messages To Santa, as part of the annual PRIDE (Positive Results in a Downtown Environment) Christmas festivities and ship them off to North Pole Alaska. On November 25, 2005, Ed Trump, AL7N, The Alaska CW Net Manager, formally requested the ARRL's National Traffic System handle the messages as part of their routine training. The program has been a great hit and SVARA members have been Santa's Helpers for over a quarter century now. During that time period, Jim Wades, WB8SIW, the renowned telegrapher, has handled the traffic on land lines with legacy equipment. With its clicky clacks and historic gear, the sound of traffic being sent adds a lot of excitement.

Excerpts from some messages range from fun to touching:

Potential musician, 5 yr old Zera asked for a doll or a flute. 4 yr old Hsana, figured a new radio or "dollars" would be great. Weary adult "Steve" simply asked for "a new life". 7 yr old Sydney wanted one thing: Chocolate Hershey candy. 4 year old Joey wanted an electric globe of the earth. 38 year old Tracy wanted "No Lymph Node Cancer for her husband of 20 years". 8 yr old Shaniqua wanted a new EZ Bake Oven or a Bratz Doll. 4 yr old Alex wanted a Choo Choo Train or Dump Truck. 41 yr old Carol wanted the "Christmas Spirit to return and stay with all of us - even you."

HF PROPAGATION SOFTWARE built in Saginaw, Michigan by SVARA members

Bill Dolson, K8DDV (sk), his wife Mary, their son James and K8CQF formed a software company and partnership known as Base(2)Systems. Bill was great with hardware, James had just finished college as a Michigan State University graduate in Computer Science and K8CQF had a business and taxation background. The company created an algorithm based upon both the U.S. Naval Ocean System's Center HF propagation research released to the public, and upon "E" layer screening effects within the lower Ionosphere released by British research scientists. The program, known as "MUFPLOT" achieved sales from around the world and to various government agencies. In part, because Jim produced a graphic output rather than the



mathematical tables of competitors. Major magazine reviews were favorable. Ellen White, in her March 1984 QST review of the product said: " This neat program imparts the relevancy of certain operating factors in a way that's difficult to explain in words. Almost immediately you really see the effects of present (and past) solar flux on band openings. In fact, with conditions so punk of late, it was almost as much fun to fool with the program as to "hope" 20 would open."