



# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the  
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

March 2019

- **SVARA Meeting Presentations**

We are always 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 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6

**Club Breakfast Dates (Savoy bar and Grill on Franklin St.):**

A club breakfast is held monthly on the Saturday morning after the meeting, 8:30 a.m. All dates are Saturdays. January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 8, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7

**Board Meeting Dates (at Biggby Coffee, 3085 Bay Rd.):**

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week following the general membership meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Biggby Coffee on Bay Rd. Dates for the new year are being decided. Changes in meeting dates are posted on the club website.

All dates for 2019 are to be announced at this time.

**ARES Members:**

Ares training for January is Preparing for Deployment. Winter Field Day planning will also be discussed. Visit the Ares website for more information. Ares training for February is Operational Stress.

**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 February 1, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Mike N8XPS, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 15 members and 8 guests present.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

Mary WB8LZA, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Mike K8AVJ. The motion passed.

Because of the auction the business version of the meeting was very short. Mike N8XPS, discussed Winter Field Day. Hot chocolate, doughnuts and hotdogs were available. Turnout was good.

Lee KC8ITI, announced they were starting Technician classes in Midland the second week of February. Midland will also be holding General classes starting in April. Visit the Midland club's webpage <https://www.w8kea.org/WP/> or contact Lee for more information.

With regular business out of the way, people were ready to start the bidding. Competition was fierce and several individuals left with less than they wanted to. Several antenna books drew unexpectedly high bids. Some of the traditional food items were up for auction however, K8AVJ was disappointed that there were no cookies or donuts up for auction.

The winner of the 50-50 auction with lucky ticket number 214998 was Anne KB8AWE.

The motion to adjourn was made by Gordy KC8YVD, and seconded by Mike KD8MMH.

## **Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for February 11, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at pm by Mike KD8MMH, with Mike N8XPS, Dave W8DW, Doris KD8MMG, Tom N8EUI, 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, the change of banks delay as well as mentioning the PO Box payment was due at the end of February.

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

The Vice President was not present.

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary was not present.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer discussed the details of the auction and dues collected.

### **Chair's Report**

Mike KD8MMH, is planning to discuss field day preparations with the Midland club at their next meeting. Their last meeting was canceled.

### **General Discussion**

the meeting room at Biggby's coffee has been reserved for March and April. The need to hold the repeater committee meeting was also discussed.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mike KD8MMH and seconded by Doris KD8MMG.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Elias K8AVJ  
Secretary

## ARRL News

### VE7DXW's "RF Seismograph" May Be *Real* Seismograph

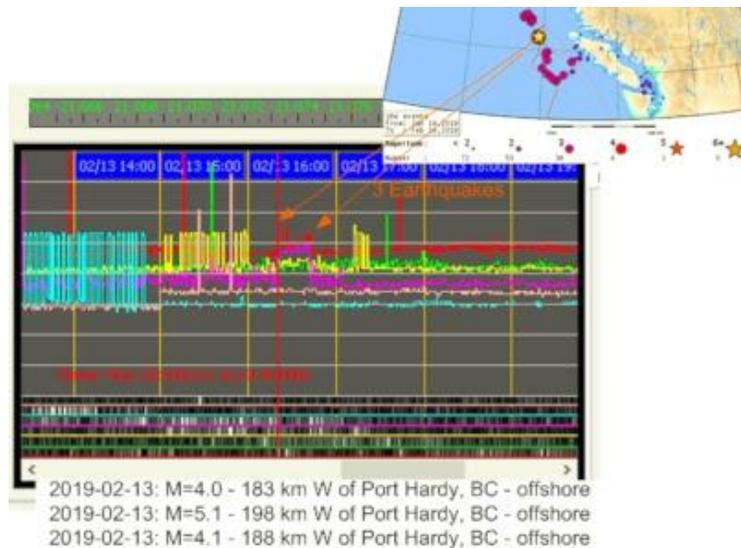
Alex Schwarz, VE7DXW, in British Columbia, Canada, is exploring the possibility that "RF signatures" detected by the [RF Seismograph](#) propagation tool could also be indicating earthquakes, and may even be able to predict them shortly before they occur. A real-time HF [propagation-monitoring tool](#) developed by Schwarz and the [MDSR team](#), the RF Seismograph shows both band noise and activity or band activity alone on six HF bands. It's a project of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club ([NSARC](#)).

"We had been doing the solar eclipse experiment, and we developed the RF Seismograph software to look for changes in propagation during the eclipse," Schwarz explained. "After the eclipse, we decided to leave the RF Seismograph running, and we have now collected 4 years of data."

The system uses an omnidirectional multiband antenna to monitor JT-65 frequencies ( $\pm 10$  kHz) on 80, 40, 30, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Recorders monitor the background noise and display the result in six color-coded, long-duration graphs displaying 6 hours of scans. When signals are present on a band, its graph trace starts to resemble a series of vertical bars.

Most recently, the RF Seismograph recorded the magnitude 7.5 earthquake in Ecuador on February 22. Schwarz recounted that noise on 15 meters began to be visible about 1 hour before the quake; then, 2 hours after the quake released, 15 meters started to recover. The US Geological Survey said the quake was about 82 miles below ground. It did not affect 80 meters. Schwarz speculated that the quake was easy to see on the RF Seismograph because 15 meters typically is not open during hours of darkness -- especially when the solar flux is only 70.

Following a magnitude 5.0 earthquake off the coast of Vancouver Island, his RF Seismograph picked up changes. Canada's government-run [Earthquakes Canada](#) was able to provide Schwarz with a list of magnitude 6.0 or greater events since the RF Seismograph went into operation, and the two teams have been collaborating to find a correlation between HF propagation anomalies and earthquakes. With the measurements, Schwarz has been attempting find a correlation between the list of past geological events and what his RF Seismograph may have sensed on those occasions.



**The RF Seismograph indicates an increase in 80-meter noise (red trace) corresponding with an earthquake west of Port Hardy, British Columbia.**

**This detail shows the increase in 80-meter noise during the earthquake west of Port Hardy, British Columbia.**

"The earthquakes show up as RF noise because of the electric field lines, now scientifically confirmed to change the way the ionosphere reflects RF," Schwarz said. He cited an article in the October 2018 edition of *Scientific American*. (Erik Vance, "[Earthquakes in the sky](#)," *Scientific American*, October 2018, p. 44).

Schwarz said 171 earthquakes -- all magnitude 6.0 events or greater -- were studied, and only 15 of them had no RF noise associated with them. In 26 cases, the time of the disturbance detected by the RF Seismograph failed to match the USGS-reported time of the quake. Schwarz said that in 72% of the earthquake studies, the RF Seismograph was able to detect an increase in noise on 80 meters, typically before and after the event.

"More analysis is needed," Schwarz has concluded. Read [more](#).

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.

## 2019 SVARA Officers

<b>President</b>	Mike Linton N8XPS	<b>Board Member</b>	
<b>Vice-President</b>	Brian Kleinfeld K8HY	Term expires 2019	Doris Miles KD8MMG
<b>Secretary</b>	Mike Elias K8AVJ	<b>Board Member</b>	Tom Schmidt N8EUI
<b>Treasurer</b>	Anne Elias KB8AWE	Term expires 2020	
		<b>Board Member</b>	Mary Paquette WB8LZA
		Term expires 2021	

## 2019 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      989-270-8974 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



### SVARA HARMONIC

The monthly newsletter of  
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