

SVARA Harmonic

a monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

June, 2010

Important Upcoming Club News:

ARRL Field Day is June 26-27, 2010

ARRL Field Day is the largest on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. It draws tens of thousands to the airwaves each year, bringing new and experienced hams together for a weekend of fun!

- Where: June 27 and 28 at Richland Twp. Park in Hemlock, MI (on Hemlock Road across from the high school).
- When: Saturday setup, meet at 0900 to 1000, operating begins at 1400 Saturday to 1400 on Sunday. Teardown starts at 1200 on Sunday until done.

Stations:

- 160/80 Meter Phone N8ERL Dave
- 40 Meter OPEN
- 20 Meter OPEN
- 15 Meter Phone W8LPV Lou
- 10 Meter OPEN
- 6 Meter OPEN
- CW All bands W8DW Dave
- Digital KC8YVF Ron
- VHF/UHF Open
- Club GOTA Station

I have people that have shown interest in the open slots but have not committed to them as of today. If you are interested in one of these slots please e-mail me so I can put you on the list as the captain of that station. If we can't fill all the openings, combos are fine with the way the bands have been 20/10 or 40/10 may be a option. During the CQ WW WPX 20 Meters was loaded and I would expect the same for field day. Station captains need to arrange for your own help as much as you can.

This is a good opportunity for our new hams to get there feet wet and I am sure that the stations will be more than happy to let you operate or log. Set up time is also a good time to learn about antennas and station setup.

Software: All stations will need a computer and a copy of N3FJP's field day logging software, both standard and network versions.

Safety: We are all safety officers. Let's watch each other and be careful out there. Hardhats are cheap and easy to find at Home Depot, Lowes, etc. Use good generator fueling practices, antenna and station setup practices, and make sure we have no night time booby traps such as unmarked guys, etc.

As a Club Function we will probably have quite a few visitors this year, so let's all make an effort to be good hosts and goodwill ambassadors for SVARA, the ARRL, and amateur radio. Also, all SVARA members are welcome to participate! Don't wait to be asked to help or to operate/log. Just jump in and have fun. This is a great time for new members and friends who are interested in amateur radio to get a great taste of what it is all about.

Let's remember to make everyone feel welcome. If you see someone you don't know who looks like they would like to get info or to see you operate, help them out. This is a great time to promote amateur radio. On the other hand let's make sure we have good camp security.

Remember Club Members Represent SVARA.

Dave W8DW w8dw@qsl.net

For ARES Members: June's ARES training will be held on June 24 at 7 pm at Harry Browne Airport. The topic is "go bags" emergency kits for quick deployment. Members are encouraged to bring their own "go bag" to show. They can be radio go bags, personal go bags or any type of bag you might use in a emergency deployment.

There will be no training in July (happy vacation month)

August 26 will be a picnic and "hands-on" packet training

Club Meeting Dates (at Red Cross):

All dates are Fridays: July 2nd, August 6th, September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th, December 3rd

Club Breakfast Dates (at State Street Texan):

All dates are Saturdays: June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th,
December 4th

Board Meeting Dates (at State Street Texan):

All dates are Wednesdays: June 16th, July 14th, August 18th, September 15th, October 13th, November 17th,
December 15th

General Meeting Minutes

American Red Cross Building

May 7, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Duane (KD8AUY) at 8:01 p.m. with 20 in attendance, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

President's Report:

Announced that the program would be the first of a 2-part installment by Joe Turner (K8CQF).

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Judy (KC8BYI) to accept the March meeting minutes as published in the Harmonic; second by Gordy (KC8YVD) and passed.

Motion by Gordy (KC8YVD) to accept the April meeting minutes as published in the Harmonic; second by Jeff (KD8IOK) and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

After the treasurer's report was read, a motion to accept by Dave (N8ERL) was seconded by Rob (KC8IJN) and passed.

Old Business:

The joint county SET is next Thursday, May 13 – contact Ron (KC8YVF) if you are available.

Dayton Hamvention is next weekend.

The MS Walk is next Saturday, May 15 – no contact from Rick Schattilly (KC8VOA) yet.

Walk for Windy is Sunday, May 16 – This is a 5k race which starts at 10:00 a.m. If you are available, Dave (N8ERL) has a sign-up sheet and article. You will need to be there at 8:00 a.m.

The next ARES training is on Thursday, May 27 (the 4th Thursday in May) – "Introduction to APRS" Emmett (W8EAB) asked for someone to bring treats, Duane (KD8AUY) volunteered to bring treats to the June training.

Ron (KC8YVF) will use APRS to track all 9 buses during the SET. Joe (K8CQF) asked if there would be a problem using the antennas on the buses – are they aluminum? Reminder; you must be an ARES member to participate in the SET.

Gordy (KC8YVD) has the sign-up sheet for Care Break. Asked if someone is available to move the trailer; Rob (KC8IJN) will be available on Friday morning; possibly on Monday evening.

Liability Discussion:

Judy (KC8BYI) checked with the insurance company; we are totally covered for \$1 Million per person up to \$3 Million. This does not include equipment; will discuss with the board.

New Business:

Jeff (KD8IOK) will be available to attend board meetings next month.

Rotor indicator for the antenna at Red Cross building: Duane (KD8AUY) looked at it and inquired about repair online. Research indicates that it is not the box, but the motor outside. This is a 1978 system. Dave (N8ERL) suggests that we try another controller that works; just to verify. Fred has had trouble with the capacitor in the box; suggests checking the resistive circuit on the rotor from the ground.

Ron (KC8YVF) sent ARRL info to Judy (KC8BYI) and Duane (KD8AUY). In order to qualify as tax exempt; they require everyone to submit an annual report (due to fraud). We have applied, but won't have it until the 501c3 status comes through.

New Member: Janet Kurecka (KD8MMJ); motion to accept by Joe (K8CQF), and seconded by Gordy (KC8YVD) and accepted.

How many repeaters do we have, and where are they?

- One 2-Meter transmitter at Rosein
- Three repeater sites – Gera, Hemlock, Davenport
- One 220 receive, one 220 transmitter at Rosein
- Also looking at 2 additional receive sites for 2-Meter – possibly MBS Airport, also looking to cover the Southern part of the county – Birch Run or Chesaning

Missing solar panels did not work. Equipment runs on AC power (110), and on a generator for back up.

Field Day: Dave (W8DW) has 3 station commitments so far. Open stations include: 160M, 80M, 20M, 10M, VHF, and 6M. Lou (W8LPV) has sent news releases to the following: Saginaw News, Frankenmuth, Birch Run/Bridgeport Herald, Tri City Citizen, Township Times, WUCM, WSGW, WSAM, WJRT, and WEYI. WNEM will give us special attention; a copy was circulated during the meeting.

Metro Youth Day is July 15. Lou (W8LPV) circulated a picture from last year.

50/50 was won by Dave (W8DW); \$21.50

Club breakfast tomorrow at 8:00 a.m.

Presentation:

Joe (K8CQF) considered presenting the history of the club, but instead presented part 1 of The History of Radio Communication. He played the “oldest known radio transmission recording.”

Motion to adjourn made by Dave (W8DW), with a second by Jeff (KC8BDQ) accepted at 9:10 p.m.

SVARA Board Meeting
May 19, 2010
Texan Restaurant, State St.

Meeting called to order at 8:00 p.m. with Duane (KD8AUY), Mike (N8XPS), Judy (KC8BYI), Rachele (KD8UOK), Ron (KC8YVF), Emmett (W8EAB), and Jeff (KC8BDQ) in attendance.

Motion to approve March 17 meeting minutes by Emmett (W8EAB); second by Jeff (KC8BDQ); passed.

Motion to approve April 14 meeting minutes by Judy (KC8BYI); second by Mike (N8XPS); passed.

President's Report:

Lou (W8LPV) will present at the next meeting. This will be a non-electronic presentation, simply entertainment.

Red Cross Antenna: Jeff (KC8BDQ) may be able to fix the rotor motor by soldering part of it. He will attempt this when it comes down. Ron (KC8YVF) suggests replacing the coax while up there.

Vice President's Report:

New members; Mike, Doris, and Dave are interested in jackets. Judy (KC8BYI) will bring order forms to the next meeting. The minimum order is 4 jackets.

Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report:

Copies of May 7 approved report distributed.

Care Break: Gordy (KC8YVD) is working on this. There are still some empty spots. No discussion at general meeting regarding dinner; the next meeting is the following Friday, so the board decided not to do it for this holiday.

Ron (KC8YVF) will send the club email list to Duane (KD8AUY) and Emmett (W8EAB).

Dues: Several club members have not paid yet. Judy (KC8BYI) will send a reminder.

Ron (KC8YVF) will review the receipt submitted by Jeff (KB8SWR) to identify the part and OK the receipt.

Liability documentation: MARSH insurance through ARRL covers \$2 Million maximum; \$1 Million per incident. This is only liability insurance; no coverage on our equipment. We can get a certificate of insurance for the 2 tower locations (Red Cross and Rosein); although not required, it is a good idea. Decided that Judy (KC8BYI) would do this. Equipment coverage quote: Minimum of \$20; \$1.50 per \$100. Must itemize equipment, including serial numbers and replacement cost. Should have a list of equipment anyway. Members can buy personal coverage if they are ARRL members.

Need to start looking for storage space; the current storage space will soon be unavailable. Judy (KC8BYI) will itemize the equipment so an appropriate space can be acquired.

Chairman's Report:

SET was last week; there will be a debriefing at the next ARES training on May 27. The county trailer is finished, and was used at the SET. ATV worked well, and was impressive.

Ron (KC8YVF) will ask Aaron Stella (KD8VOA) to do an ATV presentation for a meeting.

Events:

June 5 – Dow Run in Midland

June 19 – Midland Swap

June 26 & 27 – Field Day; will try to get the county trailer there this time.

July 14 – Metro Youth Day

Rosein:

Tower Company quotes ~\$1500 to install 2 towers; does not include antenna.

PLUS ~\$200 for a crane operator to get the equipment up on the roof.

Will need some specialized equipment for this job; hammer drill & concrete bit.

Old Business:

Emmett (W8EAB) attended the MS Walk; went great, ~12 people is a good number.

Mike (N8XPS) attended the Walk for Windy; went really well. Work included lots of walking; had ~10 operators.

New Business:

September 25 & 26 – Bavarian Breakaway bike races. Need ~12 operators; see Emmett (W8EAB) for specific needs.

July 4 – Volkslaufe – no requests this year.

July 24 – Turri

August 28 – Crim

MSCGINC.ORG – Genesee county website with race links.

Ron (KC8YVF) will wash and bring jugs for Care Break.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. with a motion from Jeff (KC8BDQ), and second from Emmett (W8EAB).



SVARA HARMONIC

The monthly newsletter of
The Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 1783 Saginaw, MI 48605-1783



Visit our web site at: www.k8dac.com

SVARA Members sponsor the 147.240+ PL 103.5 & 224.28 Open Repeaters K8DAC/R
-and- Emergency HF stations at the American Red Cross and auxiliary field operations.

General Membership meeting is held monthly on the 1st Friday, at 8:00 p.m.
at the American Red Cross, 1232 N. Michigan.

Board of Directors meeting - monthly on the 2nd Wednesday
following the general membership meeting,
8:00 p.m. at the Texan Restaurant, 5656 State St.

Club Breakfast – monthly on Saturday morning after the meeting,
8:30 a.m. at the Texan Restaurant, 5656 State St.

2010 SVARA Officers

President	Duane Morris, KD8AUY	989-	Dewey_66@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Mike Linton, N8XPS	989-799-1467	gabbyguard729@yahoo.com
Secretary	Rachelle Stange, KD8UOK	989-624-9461	Kd8uok@jacsinc.net
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Board Member 2011	Ron Huss, KC8YVF	989-799-2679	kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com
Board Member 2010	Jeff Stange, KD8IOK	989-624-9461	kd8iok@jacsinc.net
Board Member 2012	Emmett Bengry, W8EAB	989-755-5112	w8eab@arrl.net

2010 SVARA Appointments

Newsletter Editor	Rob Wright KC8IJN	989-293-2224	ffwright@sbcglobal.net
Emergency Coordinator	Ron Huss, KC8YVF	989-799-2679	kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com
Public Info Officer	Lou Vescio, W8LPV	989-799-1467	lvescio@midmich.net
Repeater Committee	Ron Huss, KC8YVF		
	Brad Mellberg, W8QPO		
	Jeff Metiva, KB8SWR		

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to Rob Wright, KC8IJN -- ffwright@sbcglobal.net

SVARA Elmers

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