

# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the Saginaw Valley  
Amateur Radio Association

August, 2007

## QRM from Dave, N8ERL

The summer is going by fast and SVARA has had some pretty good experiences with summer projects. Keith, N8XD, has done a very fine job keeping everything updated on SVARA's webpage (<http://www.k8dac.com/>). If you haven't been visiting it lately you might want to take a look at it. Keith has posted photos and write-ups of everything the club has been doing. Keith updates frequently so you will want to check it often.

Also and goodness knows that we are all busy, if you haven't been active lately or had a chance to participate in club activities, and would like to become a little more active, the club would love to have you.

Field Day was a pretty fun time. All the stats are posted along with a write-up on the webpage, so I won't go into a lot of detail here. I would like to thank all the station captains, also Jeff, KD8BDQ, and Judy, KC8BYI, for all their help with food and planning, and all the folks who came out to visit, operate and help with setup and teardown. Lou, W8LPV, got Representative Ken Horn and his wife to come out and visit, and I think he was pretty impressed with what we had going. It will be tough to top the 2007 SVARA Field Day.

We also had a pretty good turn out at the Harry Browne Airport's Copter and Wings Fest. We provided a display with the club trailer and also provided a big help with communications and logistics. I'm not sure that the Fest will continue, but I think we will be invited back next year when the Yankee Air Force has its Dawn Patrol Breakfast. It was a fairly laid back affair and those who participated really did have a fun time. Event Chairman Jeff, KC8BDQ, had things organized to a "T" and also was able to get his helicopter ride he has dearly wanted. Yea, Jeff!

This month I thought I would do something different and do a profile on a couple of SVARA members. The first couple is indeed a couple as they are husband and wife. Wayne, W7KEH, and Muriel, KD6TVY, Humbert have been very active SVARA members for the last four years. They moved to Saginaw from California a few years ago. After they settled in they became SVARA members and were quick to get involved in the club with Wayne and his RACES and ARES experience becoming a valuable asset to our local group.

Married for 52 years, the two have lived and worked in many different places throughout the US including Michigan, Maryland, Indiana, Minnesota, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and California. Wayne is retired from the US Forestry Service and also had worked many years for the Dow Chemical Company.

Wayne's brother became a ham during the war and Wayne got the radio bug a little later getting his class B in 1947. His class A followed in 1948, his Advanced license in 1953 and his Extra in 1993. Wayne's previous calls are W9ZPX, K8DAH, W3GCF, and W0MBM.

Muriel received her Technician License in 1993 (Wayne had new Radio Shack 2 meter rig waiting for her when she got home), mostly to help Wayne out when he was EC of Siskiyou County, California. She did a lot of 2 meter work helping out with events such as field Day and The Yreka, CA Mountain Bike Rallies. Nowadays she leaves the operating to Wayne.

One of Wayne's memorable ham radio experiences was an experience he had while working with the Forestry Service during a forest fire close to Yreka, CA. He was able to coordinate ham radio operators to work with the forestry service to provide communication during the fire. The California Department of Forestry awarded Wayne and his group a plaque for distinguished service.

Over the years Wayne has operated HF using mostly CW. His current HF Rig is an Icom 725. For VHF he uses a Yaesu 1500. His antenna is a long wire set up for 75 meters. He has also built several Heathkits.

Wayne and Muriel also enjoy camping. Several years ago Wayne built a Burro Camper.

Thanks to Wayne and Muriel for sharing with us. That is it for this month. I'm still looking for things to write about so if you are doing something interesting let me know at [n8erl@arrl.net](mailto:n8erl@arrl.net).

## Equipment for Sale

I am Donald Raasch. I am a past member of SVARA. I have used equipment such as Heath transceiver and accessories, Hallicrafters transmitter, Hammerlund receiver and antennas for sale.

All the equipment I have is old and I don't know what it is worth. If, anything. This is the equipment:

Hallicrafters transmitter, HT-37

Hammerlund Receiver, HQ-180

Heath, transceiver SB-104 with "A" modification

Heath, monitor, SB-614

Heath, VFO SB-644A

Heath, power supply HP-1144PS

Heath, Cantenna HN-31

Heath, manuals for above

Wilson, System III tri-band antenna, 3 element

Homebrew, 15 mtr 3 element beam

Cushcraft, Ringo Ranger ARX-2B

I would like to sell the Heath equipment as a group. I would appreciate any guess as to what the equipment is worth. Thanks, Don Raasch, WA8MAS (989) 752-3598.

Thanks to Ed, W8HZF for the following:

PEOPLE the news January 27, 1978

## Patient runs hospital radio

BY ANDY TESSLER  
News Staff Writer

Sometime Thursday afternoon the memory came to Gilman Huckins, 70, as he tried to telephone his wife from his room at St. Mary's Hospital.

He heard the hospital was having difficulty moving employees back and forth from work and he remembered the amateur radio that had been installed at the hospital.

Thursday afternoon, he tapped 20 years of experience in ham radio and manned that radio. He sent only one message but it brought six employees to the hospital.

Huckins, 70, a member of the Civil Defense radio team and the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association, said Civil Defense radios, operating on a higher frequency than standard ham radios, were installed in hospitals for training and disasters. They allow communication with the main station at the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department, other hospitals and mobile units the members have. Members can communicate without depending on telephones.

"We know we can get them on the radio. Ever try to get a line out of this place?" Huckins asked. "The lines have been tied up all day with busy signals."

Huckins tried for more than an hour to reach his wife but "conned"



**Gilman Huckins**

a switchboard operator into permitting him to call the sheriff's department. He received permission to broadcast and headed for the radio in his wheelchair with an intravenous bottle waving above him.

He had been scheduled for throat surgery but the surgeon could not reach the hospital.

A staff secretary prepared a list of people the hospital needed. In the radio's first emergency use, the

retired lathe operator broadcast the names to the main station. The names were passed to deputies who picked up six employees and brought them to the hospital.

He said the main station went on the air at 8 a.m. Thursday, closed in midafternoon so the operator could sleep, but was to resume operation through the night.

Huckins, whose ham and Citizens Band handle is The Old Indian Chief, taken from the last three letters of his ham call sign, K8OIC, said the radios were installed to provide communications between hospitals in the event of a disaster, to quickly determine how many hospital beds were available and where.

Decades ago, electric trains put him on the track toward amateur radio. "I was interested in electric trains and had a beautiful layout," he said. But then there was a house fire and he saw \$5,000 in train equipment disappear in smoke.

"I told my wife if I got another hobby, I wanted something I could pick up and run with."

He met a couple amateur radio operators, became interested and joined ham radio. His enthusiasm grew and at least now he has a captive audience for his evangelism about radio: Thursday he was trying to persuade St. Mary's to buy mobile CB radios for use during snow emergencies.

General Membership Meeting  
July 6, 2007  
Rest Area

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. There were 29 members and guests present.

The Secretary's report was accepted as presented on a motion by KC8BDQ and seconded by KD8FLK with all in favor.

The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by N8YXR seconded by KC0RBV.

Announcements:

N8ERL gave a report on Field Day. Some 20 people participated garnering the following scores (estimates only):

733 contacts equaling 892 points

X2 for operation at less than 150 watts equals 1784 points for a total of 2913 points.

Old Business:

N8XD presented some members with photos from Copters and Wings.

New Business:

N8YXR announced he was seeking volunteers to help erect the station at the First Ward Community Center, Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am.

N8XD reminded members of the Detroit Metro Youth Day July 11<sup>th</sup>. Participating members are to meet at the TA truck stop in Bridgeport at 5:00 am.

Members present voted in two new members. They are:

Duane Vasold, K8CCE; voted in by N8ERL and K8DVX

James Ormsby, N8RCB; voted in by WA8GRI and N8YXR

N8XD mentioned he had a meeting with the new director of the Red Cross to secure access to the building. Apparently, a shake-up there resulted in locks and alarm codes being changed.

K8DVX suggested that the picture of the club trailer, with the antenna erected, from Copters and Wings should be submitted to QST, along with an article detailing its various functions, for possible publication in their magazine.

K8CQF introduced his grandchildren, Drew, age 3; Mia, age 7; and Adrien, age 5, to the club. It was a pleasure to have them in attendance. It was noted that they are all cuter than Grandpa.

On a motion by N8YXR, seconded by N8XPS the meeting closed at 7:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ  
Secretary

**Board of Directors**  
**SVARA**  
July 18, 2007  
Texan on State Street

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm. Present were: W8LPV, KC8BYI, KC8BDQ, KC8YVF, WA8GRI, and N8XD.

Announcements:

N8XD commented on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Care Break, Metro Youth Day July 11<sup>th</sup> and the First Ward Community Center project.

KC8BDQ reminded board members about Metro Youth Day and asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the June Board meeting as presented in print. KC8YVF was seconded by W8LPV and all were in favor.

Old Business:

The treasurer's report from the general meeting was reviewed. She noted that she would have a full report on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Care Break at a later date.

W8LPV reported that work was continuing on the 501 (c)(3) project.

He also brought up the Broadband-Over-Powerline (BPL) controversy and suggested we make some press releases and inform local emergency personnel of the pitfalls of this technology. It was asked if we shouldn't contact the ARRL.

W8LPV mentioned Rep. Kahn lost his map to Field Day. He was unable to locate us and consequently did not attend. Thanks for trying anyway, Rep. Kahn!

New Business:

WA8GRI presented the club with a coffee pot to replace one he accidentally broke at Care Break. A simple electrical cord would have sufficed (the plug that goes into the pot was damaged) but we graciously accept his replacement.

He also mentioned he has a son-in-law that works for MDOT. He will ask him for some maps for Care Break.

On a motion by KC8BDQ, seconded by KC8BYI, the meeting closed at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ  
Secretary

# LABOR DAY CARE BREAK SIGN UP SHEET

	Friday, Aug 31	Saturday, Sept 1	Sunday, Sept 2	Monday, Sept 3
12 - 3 am	/	Lou W8LPV		
	/	Eileen Vescio		
3 - 6 am	/			
	/			
6 - 9 am	/			
	/			
9 - 12 noon	Ron KC8YVF	Ron KC8YVF	Ron KC8YVF	
12 - 3 pm				Bob N8YXR
				Jennie KC0RBV
3 - 6 pm	Muriel KD6TVY	Muriel KD6TVY		Muriel KD6TVY
	Wayne W7KEH	Wayne W7KEH		Wayne W7KEH
6 - 9 pm				
9 - 12 midnight			Lou W8LPV	/
			Eileen Vescio	/

Please note that this information may not be complete. If you have already signed up, but you're not included here, please resubmit your preferred time slots. Thank You.



**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](http://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 - monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
 at the American Red Cross, 1232 N. Michigan.

Board of Directors meeting - monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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,  
 9:00 a.m. at the Texan Restaurant, 5656 State St.

**2007 SVARA Officers**

President	Keith DeLong, N8XD	989-695-5131	n8xd@arrl.net
Vice-President	Jim Stutesman, WA8GRI	989-791-2156	wa8gri@arrl.net
Secretary	Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ	989-797-0692	weirauch@chartermi.net
Treasurer	Judy Weirauch, KC8BYI	989-797-0692	weirauch@northwood.edu
Board Member 2007	Ron Huss, KC8YVF	989-799-2679	kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com
Board Member 2008	Lou Vescio, W8LPV	989-799-1467	lvescio@midmich.net
Board Member 2009	Aaron Stella, KD8AVA	989-497-0463	astella@bcdglobal.com

**2007 SVARA Appointments**

Newsletter Editor	Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ	989-797-0692	weirauch@chartermi.net
Emergency Coordinator	Carl DeMeritt, KC8YVI	989-792-2151	cdemeritt@chs-mi.com
Public Info Officer	Aaron Stella, KD8AVA	989-497-0463	astella@bcdglobal.com
Repeater Committee	Ron Huss, KC8YVF		
	Brad Mellberg, W8QPO		
	Jeff Metiva, KB8SWR		

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ -- [weirauch@chartermi.net](mailto:weirauch@chartermi.net)

**SVARA Elmers**

Antennas	Tracy Albert, KC8YVE	989-714-2367	thealbert@earthlink.com
Antennas	Verne Williams, KC8FUV	213-689-5258	vw54@ncats.net
APRS + WX	Brian Buckstiegel, N8AVR	989-781-6875	brian@n8avr.us
CPR-AED Training	Roger Steffes, K8DVX	989-752-9891	RogerSteffes@speednetllc.com
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Towers	Verne Williams, KC8FUV	213-689-5258	vw54@ncats.net