



SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

October 2017

- **SVARA Meeting Presentations**

We are still 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:

American Red Cross 1232 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw
1ST Friday of the month at 7:00PM unless otherwise noted

Club Meeting Dates:

All dates are Fridays: April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1

Club Breakfast Dates (at Levi's on State St.):

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

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

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday following the general membership meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Biggby Coffee on Bay Rd. Changes in meeting dates are post on the club website.
All dates are Thursday: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 14, October 19, November 16, December 14

ARES Members:

Ares training for October will be Emergency Training. Visit the Ares website for more information. Ares training for November will be ICS-214 Activity Logs.

Weekly Nets Please join us. All licensed operators are welcome.

District 3 Net 145.310 Sunday 6:00 PM	SVARA (Saginaw) 147.240 Monday 9:00 PM	MARC (Midland) 147.000 Thursday 9:00 PM
D3 Digital Training Net (Olivia 8/500) Seasonal 3.586 MHz USB Sunday 8:00 PM	BAARC (Bay City) 145.310 Tuesday 9:00 PM	MI Digital Traffic Net (Olivia 8/500) 3.583 MHz USB Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8:00 PM

Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for September 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Mike KD8MMH, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 12 members present.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept both the July and August meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for both July and August and was seconded by Horst KD8ZXR. The motion passed.

Mike KD8MMH, discussed the upcoming Michigan convention and ham swap to be held at the Michigan International Speedway. Mike discussed the possibility of the club renting a 15 passenger van for the trip. Mike is going to get a price on the rental from Redmond's and will also check with the Midland club to see if any of their members may be interested. The National Night Out event was discussed. Attendance seemed pretty good however, the organizers did not have a stamp station activity this year so the number of visitors to the ARES booth was down again. Mike KD8MMH, reported on his experience at the Crim. Attendance was good and everything went smoothly at his station. The upcoming Birch Run Emergency Preparedness Expo was discussed and a sign-up sheet was passed around. The Expo will be held on Saturday, September 30. If you would like to come help, where your club T-shirt and you won't have to pay admission. Also, the Saginaw County simulated emergency test will be happening on the same day. If you would like to volunteer for the SET please contact Ron KC8YVF or visit the Ares website for more information.

Fred K8EMQ, gave a short presentation where he shared pictures and stories of early radio. Thank you for sharing Fred. Mike KD8MMH, reminded everyone once again this was when to be his last year as president. Mike also discussed some updates on the grant project. From what Mike has been told all the purchases have been made and some equipment has been put up. Pictures of the installation are available on the club website. Mike also passed around a summarized list of the equipment that was purchased. Mike also discussed a request made by the grant project team for the purchase of 3 new 2 m base station antennas with an approximate cost of \$200 each. This request will be discussed by the board at its next meeting. It was also noted that the requested paperwork and documentation still has not been received. Randy KE8AHW, noted his growing concern over conflict related to the grant project. The winner of the 50-50 drawing with a lucky number of 214566 was Mike KD8MMH.

The motion to adjourn was made by Emmett NE8B and seconded by Gordy KC8YVD.

Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for September 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at pm by Duane KD8AUY, with Mike N8XPS, Dave W8DW, Mike K8AVJ, Tom N8EUI, Horst KD8ZXR, and Mike KD8MMH, present.

Mike N8XPS, made a motion to accept last month's board meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Mike KD8MMH. The motion passed.

President's Report

Mike KD8MMH, reported on the cost of a rental van from Redmond's. The cost is \$100 per night plus mileage. He noted that the deadline for making the was no later than September 22. Mike then made a motion regarding the purchase request from the grant project group. It was noted that the board could not approve an amount that large and a general membership club vote would need to be held to approve the request. Mike then made a motion to bring this request to the floor at the next general meeting. The motion had no support.

Vice President's Report

The Vice President was not present.

Secretary's Report

Mike K8AVJ, reported on quotes for having the welcome packs printed. The lowest quote of \$8.00 for printing 10 welcome packs was from Delta College Printing Services. Dave W8DW, made a motion to have the welcome packs printed with Delta College Printing Services. The motion was seconded by Mike KD8MMH, and passed.

Treasurer's Report

Mike N8XPS, reported on the golf outing and care break expenses.

General Discussion

Duane KD8AUY, discussed the upcoming elections. He asked the board to start looking for people who would be willing to be nominated for a position. The board then discussed the need for new members. Horst KD8ZXR, mentioned in event being held in Kochville Township at the VFW Hall on Kochville Road. The event will be held on Thursday the 21st from 6 to 8 PM. The public is welcome and he also noted that there would be free food.

The motion to adjourn was made by Duane KD8AUY, and seconded by Tom N8EUI.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Elias K8AVJ
Secretary

Grant Project Update News

On Saturday, July 22 2017, Directors from Central Michigan Emergency Network Inc. along with members from Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association (SVARA) met at the Rosien site to begin installation of the Mi6WAN networking gear. Installation of more tower sections to increase height above the roofline to support all the new gear started around 10am. A new 220 antenna was installed at the top with the 3 5.9ghz sectors below the 4 bay antenna. The three 120 degree sectors are used for amateur radio operators to point a single radio towards the site and access the Mi6WAN network. This allows for the ability to send files, video streams, and email their data separate from other commercial networking infrastructure inside of Saginaw county. Mounted below the sectors are 5ghz ARC Wireless 2' dishes creating point to point links towards Hemlock, Gera and Oakley sites. A DynaDish5 was put in place to create the point to point link to James TWP site. Two smaller SXT radios are used to make links towards Davenport and Harrion sites. All these radios are cabled down the tower into the penthouse using shielded cat5 cabling. Inside the rack, a 24 slot surge chassis is mounted with cards for each radio. A mikrotik RB1100AH2 provides the routing services for the gear. A remote-control PDU is setup to allow remote rebooting. It can also can proactively monitor the gear and under failure conditions can automatically power-cycle equipment. The site has an emergency generator and a standard UPS 1500 tripplite was installed with environmental and networking card, which allows telemetry to be sent on power condition to the administrative team.

The crew left Rosien around 11pm to head to Harrison and worked to install the gear at that site as well to link back to rosien. An hour later, the link was up and running and being tested. The last of the crew left for home just after midnight. With the link now established to Rosien, Fred (W8FSM) brought up OSPF and tested results of the work the crew did during the day.

The following CMEN Directors Jeff(KB8SWR), Randy(N8VDS), Dave(N8ERL), CMEN Brother Tom(N8IES) and Members of Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association (SVARA) Dave(W8DW), Mike(N8XPS) and Mike(K8AVJ) were all on location throughout the day helping with the tasks on hand.

This was just the 3rd weekend of on site work that W8CMN members have done installing gear that was purchased with the grant that was provided by Frankenmuth Credit Union. The grant was issued to replace/rebuild the SVARA 147.240 repeater along with building out the Mi6WAN system inside of Saginaw County. Well over a year of planning and months of preparation work has gotten us to this point. To date, Mayville and Bancroft have been installed and we still have more to finish up at Rosien. Gera, Hemlock, Davenport, Oakley, Frankenmuth and James TWP sites still need to have their gear installed. Once all the microwave gear is installed, we will then start installing/upgrading the VHF SVARA repeater.

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Fredric Moses - W8FSM - WQOG498
fred@moses.bz

Birch Run Emergency Preparedness Expo and State S.E.T.

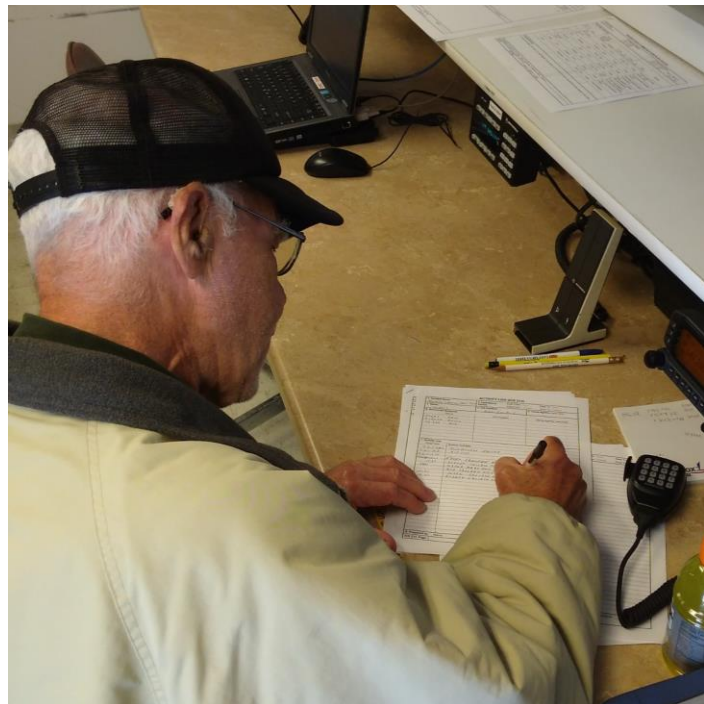
Thank you to everyone who came out and helped. Here are a couple of photos from the event. More photos will be available on the club website. Check out the club's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SaginawValleyARA/>



Left to right, Mike KD8MMH, Emmett NE8B, Mike N8XPS



Ron KC8YVF



Joe N8OSL

ARRL News

FCC Technological Advisory Council Investigating Technical Regulations

The FCC Technological Advisory Council ([TAC](#)) is looking into FCC technical regulations to determine if reforms or changes might be in order. Greg Lapin, N9GL, represents ARRL on the TAC and chairs the ARRL RF Safety Committee. The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) announced the TAC public inquiry (ET Docket 17-215), which seeks comments by October 30 regarding technical regulations and the process for adopting and updating them.

"To more effectively ensure that its rules keep pace with the rapidly changing technology in communications, the FCC has asked its Technological Advisory Council to help identify FCC technical rules that are obsolete or may be ripe for change in light of current communications technologies," the OET said in an August 31 [Public Notice](#).

Made up of technological experts in various areas -- some of them radio amateurs -- who advise the FCC in technical matters, the TAC is gathering feedback from users and vendors of communications technology affected by technical rules.

"Some technical rules may no longer be applicable to modern communications equipment," the *Public Notice* said. "Rules that describe the operation of certain technologies may no longer be necessary, as those technologies are obsolete. Data reporting requirements for technical operations, which help the FCC to determine how effectively the communications environment is being utilized and also how communications entities are complying with the current laws, may no longer be necessary."



On the other hand, the OET said, some communications users may feel that certain existing regulations protect their operations and should not be removed.

In addition to seeking comment on specific regulations, the TAC is looking for input on how the regulatory process could be made more efficient and timely. The TAC plans to concentrate on issues of a technical nature and is looking for responses related to specific rules that should be considered for removal, retention, or change, and discuss the rationale behind each proposal.

Interested parties may file comments until October 30, using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>).

For more information, contact Greg Lapin, N9GL GLapin@arrl.org, or TAC working group FCC liaison Walter Johnston Walter.Johnston@fcc.gov.

Syndicated Column By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

ARRL finally realizes status quo isn't going to cut it

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

“ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

“The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice.”

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

“Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee – Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

“Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

“A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects

would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham's interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer's desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

“From the committee's vantage point, **the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership** [*emphasis is mine...Dan*]. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL's relevancy will not move forward.”

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I've written about these in the past. I've challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I've also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, “From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership.” That approach is doomed to failure. Any “visioning” or strategic planning that doesn't get the membership involved right from the start just isn't going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn't have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership “is no longer adequate.” That's how we got here in the first place.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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.

2016 SVARA Officers

President	Mike Dougherty KD8MMH	Board Member	Tom Schmidt N8EUI Term expires 2017
Vice-President	Brian Kleinfeld K8HY	Board Member	Anne Elias KB8AWE Term expires 2018
Secretary	Mike Elias K8AVJ	Board Member	Doris Miles KD8MMG Term expires 2019
Treasurer	Mike Linton N8XPS		

2016 SVARA Appointments

Newsletter Editor

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to
 Rob Wright KC8IJN 989-293-2224 ffrwright@sbcglobal.net

Emergency Coordinator

Ron Huss, KC8YVF 989-799-2679 kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com

Public Info Officer

Tom Schmidt N8EUI 989 245-7429 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
 The Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association
 PO Box 1783 Saginaw, MI 48605-1783

