



SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

October 2018

- **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:

Covenant Hospital Anderson building, first floor lecture room on the corner of N. Bond St. and Almira St. on the 1ST Friday at 7:00PM unless otherwise noted. Changes are posted to the club website.

Club Meeting Dates:

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

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

A club breakfast is held monthly on Saturday morning after the meeting, 8:30 a.m.

All dates are Saturdays January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 3, December 8

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. Dates may change based on room availability. Changes in meeting dates are posted on the club website.

All dates are Thursday: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 14, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20

ARES Members:

Visit the Ares website for information on upcoming training. Ares training for October is to be determined.

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

District 3 Net 145.310 Sunday 6:30 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 Tues, Thurs, Sat 8:00 PM

Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for September 7,2018

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The meeting was called to order by Mike N8XPS, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 12 members present.

Gordy KC8VYD, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Dave W8DW. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report for August was not available.

General discussion began with Dave W8DW, discussing upcoming contests. The discussion then turned towards club goals. In particular attracting new members. Dave suggested we try to emulate some of the things the Cadillac club is doing because they have quite a few members. Presentations and changes to the format of club meetings were discussed. It was also suggested that perhaps we have some type of welcome party or bring a friend night to celebrate our new location. Mike N8XPS, made additional suggestions for meeting rules.

ARES annual dinner and a movie was discussed. Attendees noted an enjoyable experience with good food and company. Mike KD8MMH, discussed updated flyers for the upcoming emergency preparedness Expo noting more updates were needed. It was also noted that more recent activities need to be added including participation in the Expo itself. Membership forms and additional ways to capitalize on membership from the event were discussed and to the board was directed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Mike N8XPS, introduced a request from the Wesleyan church to use a generator for one of their upcoming events. This is the church where the December meeting is held. In appreciation for the use of their facilities for December meeting a motion was made by Doris KD8MMG, to allow the church to use a generator free of charge. This motion was seconded by Mike N8XPS. The motion passed.

Ron KC8YVF, discussed the upcoming Ares training. They will be reviewing the new "Connect" system for registering volunteer hours. Ron believes the new system will take some getting used to.

Mike KD8MMH, discussed some other items related to the Expo as well as the status of the club trailer. News from the Midland club was also discussed including the election of a new president.

The motion to adjourn was made by Gordy KC8YVD, and seconded by Dave N8ERL.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Elias K8AVJ
Secretary

Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for September 20, 2018

S.V.A.R.A Board Meeting Minutes
BigBy Coffee House

September 26, 2018

Chairman Michael KD8MMH called meeting to order at 7:05 with Doris KD8MMG, Dave W8DW, Mary WB8LZA, Dave N8ERL, Mike N8XPS, and Rick KC8VOA and guest present.

Dave N8ERL made a promotional brochure for events such as the upcoming Emergency Exposition. Dave inquired if the board had any questions or comments before going to press. Dave suggested one minor correction himself and would make the change. He would also e-mail original file to Mike Elias for printing. Mike KD8MMH made and Mary WB8LZA seconded the motion to use the flyer for promotional material.

Dave W8DW made and Doris KD8MMG seconded the motion to accept the board meeting minutes for August as published in the Harmonic newsletter.

President's report: The non-profit corporation renewal from the State of Michigan arrived in the mail. With both Anne and Michael unfortunately absent I will make sure it sent in on time.

Also the Saginaw Hoyt Library has order the new ARRL Technicians License Manual the 4th edition should someone be interested in Amateur Radio it would be a good start.

Vice Presidents report: nothing to report unable to attend

Secretary's report: nothing to report unable to attend

Treasure's report: nothing to report unable to attend

Repeater committee report: Jeff KB8SWR e-mailed the Treasurer and repeater committee to see what remained of the Frankenmuth Credit Union grant money. Dave W8DW described a power supply with an Internet connection. The subject was tabled until we could find the status of the grant and a make and model for the device in question.

Chairman's report: Mike KD8MMH shared the preparations for the Emergency Expo taking place Saturday 29th. He stated he stopped by Rob's KC8IJN's house and retrieved the banner other needed supplies and that Ron KC8YVF would be making a presentation at the event.

Rick KC8VOA addressed the board stating he thought that at one time a committee was formed to update the club's constitution. None remembered anything being formalized. It was hoped that if any work was stated in that regard the notes could be found work could be continued instead of started over. This subject will be discussed at the general meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Dave W8DW and seconded by Mike KD8MMH and we did at 7:59.

Respectfully Submitted
Michael Linton, N8XPS
President

on behalf of
Mike Elias, K8AVJ
Secretary

Spray-On Antennas Could Be the Wave of the Future, University Researchers Believe

Researchers at Drexel University's College of Engineering [report](#) a breakthrough in nanomaterials technology that promises to make installing an antenna as easy as applying sunblock or bug spray. The University reported the research in a *DrexelNOW* article, "Drexel's Spray-On Antennas Could Be the Tech Connector of the Future." The advance could mean wearable and invisible antennas that could find their place in the next generation of the Internet of Things (IoT), and even have Amateur Radio applications.

"The ability to spray an antenna on a flexible substrate or make it optically transparent means that we could have a lot of new places to set up networks," said Drexel Wireless Systems Laboratory Director and engineering professor Kapil Dandekar, a co-author of the research published recently in *Science Advances*.

"This technology could enable the truly seamless integration of antennas with everyday objects, which will be critical for the emerging Internet of things," Dandekar said.



In their paper, Dandekar and his colleagues laid out a method for spraying invisibly thin antennas made from a type of two-dimensional metallic material called MXene -- a conductive, two-dimensional titanium carbide material -- which can be dissolved in water to create an ink or paint. They said the exceptional conductivity of the material enables it to be employed as an RF radiator, even when applied in a very thin, nearly invisible coating. The MXene antennas perform as well as those now being used in mobile devices, wireless routers, and other devices, the Drexel researchers said. In addition, the MXene materials were shown to be 50 times better than graphene and 300 times better than silver ink antennas in terms of preserving the quality of RF transmission.

"Current fabrication methods of metals cannot make antennas thin enough and applicable to any surface, in spite of decades of research and development to improve the performance of metal antennas," said Yury Gogotsi, Ph.D., director of the A.J. Drexel Nanomaterials Institute, who initiated and led the project. "We were looking for two-dimensional nanomaterials, which have sheet thickness about 100,000 times thinner than a human hair; just a few atoms across, and can self-assemble into conductive films upon deposition on any surface. Therefore, we selected MXene as a candidate for ultra-thin antennas."

"The MXene antenna not only outperformed the macro and micro world of metal antennas, we went beyond the performance of available nanomaterial antennas, while keeping the antenna thickness very low," said Babak Anasori, a research assistant professor in the A.J. Drexel Nanomaterials Institute. "The thinnest antenna was as thin as 62 nanometers -- about a thousand times thinner than a sheet of paper -- and it was almost transparent."

Unlike existing nanomaterial fabrication methods that require several steps, the Drexel research team's spray-on antennas can be fabricated in a single step by airbrush spraying a water-based MXene ink, Anasori said. -- *Thanks to DrexelNow*

ARRL president suggests that we “re-brand” amateur radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson’s Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

“Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let’s see: We’re world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do...I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL 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.

2018 SVARA Officers

President	Mike Linton N8XPS	Board Member	Mary Paquette WB8LZA
		Term expires 2018	
Vice-President	Brian Kleinfeld K8HY		
Secretary	Mike Elias K8AVJ	Board Member	Doris Miles KD8MMG
		Term expires 2019	
Treasurer	Anne Elias KB8AWE		
		Board Member	Tom Schmidt N8EUI
		Term expires 2020	

2018 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 989 245-7429 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



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