



# SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Inc.  
"Service Through Amateur Radio"

Founded 1930

February, 2001

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, February 5, 2001 at 7:30 PM, Olin Hall, Union College

## Electronic SARA News

Did you know? SARA News is available electronically by email. AOL might have Instant Messaging but we have Instant SARA News. Those of you receiving SARA News by email have already had it for over a week and in plenty of time before the meeting too.

In addition to receiving it instantly and not having to wait for the snail mail, there are other advantages as well - the online version is in color—more as time goes on. So if you can get online, drop us a note (via email) so we can add you to the increasing list of those getting SARA News instantly. Members report that they love it! You can read it on the screen or you can print it out. SARA saves a little bit of \$\$\$\$. I save a little bit of work. You get reliable fast delivery. It's a WIN-WIN-WIN situation. de Tim, W2UI

## Saratoga Springs Reviews Tower Denial

- H. L. Lester W2ODC

On January 17<sup>th</sup> the Saratoga Springs Planning Board met to consider again the denial of a tower application by Randy Palmer N2NVH. His counsel was Al Millus, WB2EQR from Binghamton. For other testimony there was: Ray, KA2DVM, representing public safety and emergency operations in Schenectady County; Howard, W2ODC, as radio communications engineer; David Atwell, N2FEP the Saratoga County EC and Radio Officer and Paul Zonderman, W2PZ (ex-W2ILM), an attorney who has helped with several local tower cases.

Randy has been trying for 2 years to get a variance from the City zoning regulation, which prohibits towers higher than 20 feet. After many sessions and proposals and still being turned down, he engaged Counsel Al Millus of Binghamton. They sued in Federal Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> District. The judge was favorable and sent it back to the Saratoga Planning Board with the instruction to

Continued on page 4

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## QRP

### How to do more with less

Work the world with a milliwatt and 6 inches of wet string? Well, not quite. It still is amazing what can be done with very low power and it can be a lot of fun in the bargain. Howard Friedman, WA2AFD, has agreed to explore the QRP culture at the February meeting.

The talk will include a discussion of what QRP is, the frequencies used, the equipment needed, and the contests that feature QRP only stations...also the awards that are available to those who participate in these events. He promises Graphics, too. Things like the ability of low power to get the signal through, showing comparisons with a 100 watt transmitter. And antenna topics will be covered also.

A pretty complete listing of club websites will be provided as a handout, as well as a listing of manufactures of rigs and kits.

Commercial suppliers are offering a number of QRP rigs, in assembled and kit form. Home brewing is also an option with these relatively simple radios. Tim Long will bring a kit he has built for "show and tell." Howard will have a rig there and perhaps, one or two others will bring in a rig to show off.

Howard has the unique ability to keep things very simple and not too technical so all can enjoy. It should be an interesting meeting!

## From the Board

Meetings - Thursday preceding the SARA meeting  
Board Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2001

1. Present were: George, W2CSN; Rob, KR2L; Bob, W2XM; Tim, W2UI; Jay, K2QNU and Dennis, N2LBT. The meeting was called to order by WY2F at 7:05 PM.
2. The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed, a spelling error was noted by W2UI. Motion to accept the minutes as written by W2UI and a second by W2XM.
3. The Treasurer's report was given by W2CSN. The records show that SARA has 163 paid members. The Fleet checking account has \$9237; the Broughton account has \$1283.
4. The Secretaries report was given by K2QNU. New mail showed a stock certificate for 126 shares. Using the computer on line in one of the class room labs, W2UI was able to demonstrate that as of 01/04/01 the stock has a value of \$7016. A Field Day QSL on cw was received from W4BOC, Stone Mountain Georgia, Alford Memorial Radio Club. Motor Vehicles mailed back the registration for the tower trailer.
5. Emergency Service Reporting – RACES/ARES. K2AE was activated on 28 December when Schenectady County Telephone communications failed. W2ODC and N2UID first responded to the communications effort. N2AIG and KA2DVM were the primary EOC operatives and requested that mobile ham operators station themselves at particular locations throughout the city. KB2HQ and K2QNU were among the first of 75 Amateur Radio Operators to take assignments in the city, or to relieve existing locations. It was W2CAZ that hand carried emergency 911 yellow signs to each existing amateur radio locations.
6. E-mail of SARA news was reported on by W2UI. He states that 25 hams now get their newsletters this way. It is fast, convenient, saves money on postage, and he hopes that more members will sign up for an electronic copy. Efforts by the editor KB2HQ were noted.
7. N2LBT is working on a color version of SARA NEWS. He passed around a sample of what is to come. It is great.
8. N2KMM became a silent KEY. This was reported to me on the way to the SARA Board meeting tonight. KB2RRN called me on the 06 to tell me this sad news.
9. KR2L reports that he will have a speaker for the February meeting.
10. Meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.  
K2QNU, Secretary

## The Trading Post

**FOR SALE  
OR TRADE**

FOR SALE - Hallicrafters Model S-94 receiver (30-50 MHz.), Commodore VIC-20 computer, Gonset Communicator 2 meter AM rig, Hallicrafters HT-37 HF CW & SSB transmitter, Heathkit Audio Generator, Oscilloscope, SWR meter and other items too numerous to mention. Prices and terms are negotiable. Contact Stan Israel, WA2BAH@webtv.net or 631-0419.

Radio Shack 2 meter, 30 Watt, HT amplifier - \$45. MFJ 1270 TNC - \$40. Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938, kb2hq@juno.com.

Kenwood R-600 Receiver, 150 kHz to 30 MHz continuous coverage w/ Digital frequency readout, AM, CW, LSB, USB modes. Has speaker, headphone jack, tape recorder jack, Low Z and high Z antenna inputs. With instruction manual and circuit diagram. No dents or scratches, in perfect working order. Asking \$100. Bill, W2PX, 399-3112

Icom IC-T22A HT- Extra BP180 Batt. Pack - BP 170 Batt. Case - Manuals. Warranties. - MH-C 888 Drop in Charger/Conditioner w/manual. Warranty. All new or near new. Must sell, make offer. John, K2TNC 346-0751

Mirage 2 meter amplifier, 144 to 148 MHz, 10 W in - 80 W out (1 in/15 out), like new. \$50. Walt, W2KE, 346-2997.

### WANTED

The scouts of KA2BSA are looking for 2 laptop computers w/ windows 95 or 98 for their next amateur project. Anyone willing to donate or knows someone willing to donate such items to our scouting educational ham radio program, please contact me at ka2bsa@nycap.RR.com or by calling 765-2069 evenings. Thank you in advance. Ray Ginter, N2ZQF.

NOTE: Ads will be carried for two issues unless renewed. The deadline for placing the ads is the 13th of the month.

To post an ad write: [sara@e-groups.com](mailto:sara@e-groups.com), [kb2hq@juno.com](mailto:kb2hq@juno.com) or call Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938 -- *before 9:30 PM, please.*

*The exercise that really changes  
your life is walking down the  
aisle.*

*Mary Ellen Pinkhamnew*

## Schenectady Communications Emergency December 28, 2000 -

Last year's Y2K preparations set the stage for handling the Schenectady communications emergency. Seventy five ham radio operators including some from REACT, responded to the call up by Dan Fiorillo, Schenectady County Emergency Management Director. The State of Emergency resulted from the flooding of the Verizon central telephone office in downtown Schenectady. The flood disabled a major telephone company switching center, effecting at least five counties. Phone service to 60,000 was cut off. The wireless telephone system went into full block early on, due to excess usage. As time progressed, digital "cell" phones mostly worked. It was clear that reliable communications to the county's primary 911 service was needed to protect the public.

The Schenectady County Emergency Manager, Dan Fiorello, formally activated RACES approximately 11:00 AM, following the County Manager's declaration of a State of Emergency for all of Schenectady County. Amateur radio operators from Schenectady ARES/RACES immediately staffed the Schenectady Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Schenectady County Emergency Communications Net was called up on the SARA 147.06 repeater at this time. The net was in continuous operation until 12:15 AM, December 29, 2000.

Amateur radio, with the assistance of some REACT operators, manned mobile stations at fourteen strategic locations in the City of Schenectady, displaying signs indicating that they had the capability of relaying emergency calls for the general public. In addition, amateur and REACT operators manned base equipment at the EOC. Communications were carried out on 2 meters, 220 MHz, 440 MHz, GMRS, and 11 meter CB frequencies. Many home stations also stood by to provide emergency communications in their neighborhoods. The NYS State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) was also in radio contact with the county net.

The county's preparation for Y2K eventualities almost a year ago proved invaluable. The appropriate emergency communications signs were already in the hands of many of the hams and there was a cadre of trained operators. In all, over 75 hams and REACT operators volunteered their time and equipment to protect the public by providing reliable communications during this emergency. Amateur operators from outside Schenectady County provided valuable assistance to the local hams, travelling in from areas as far away as Northville, Schoharie and Selkirk.

This emergency re-enforces the value of close cooperation and coordination between ARES, RACES and REACT!

## Roster of hams who assisted

**Note:** I have done my best to include all the hams that I could glean from the log kept at the EOC. If I have omitted anyone, I am sorry, and please know that your help was invaluable and deeply appreciated by the emergency management team of Schenectady County. de George Chapek, N2AIG, Emergency Coordinator, ARES.

AB2B, Jerry - Schoharie	N2EKU, Con - Niskayuna
AG2X, Fred - Mechanicville	N2FEP, Dave - Rock City Falls
K2PK, Jim - Scotia	N2KMF, Bill - Salem
K2QNU, Jay - Clifton Park	N2LBT, Dennis - Albany
K2RI, Raleigh - Niskayuna	N2NUM, Don - Northville
KA2AME, Bette - Niskayuna	N2OJY, John - Rotterdam
KA2BSA, BSA - Voorheesville	N2PEQ, JR - Schenectady
KA2DVM, Ray - Rotterdam	N2POW, Doug - Schenectady
KA2EXB, Steve - Schenectady	N2QFH, Joe - Troy
KA2NKO, Bob - Schenectady	N2RAB, Ron - Schenectady
KA2NXY, Tom - Latham	N2SQO, Tom - Niskayuna
KA2TJZ, Randy - Schenectady	N2TJM, Herb - Albany
KB2FTX, Karl - Schenectady	N2TJQ, Dave - Troy
KB2HQ, Phil - Niskayuna	N2UID, Craig - Schenectady
KB2QDA, Wayne - Clifton Park	N2UZQ, James - Schenectady
KB2QPT, Bill - Clifton Park	N2ZKU, Sid - Schenectady
KB2QZH, David - Schenectady	N2ZQF, Ray - Voorheesville
KB2SLE, Earl - Latham	N2ZSH, Dan - Voorheesville
KB2SPM, Mac - Watervliet	NF2G, Dave - Albany
KB2SWR, Millie - Niskayuna	REACT 710, Bob - Rotterdam
KB8GHR, John - Charlton	REACT 773, Steve - Schenectady
KB2TSA, Andy - Schenectady	W2BEJ, Tony - Loudonville
KB2UUC, Karen - Watervliet	W2CAZ, Henry - Altamont
KB2WPD, Mike - Schenectady	W2CSN, George - Schenectady
KB2WZT, Larry - Scotia	W2EWY, Don - Schenectady
KB2ZVM, Dan - Ballston Lake	W2ODC, Howard - Alplaus
KC2AFB, Kevin - Ballston Spa	W2UI, Tim - Glenville
KC2DTJ, Dave - Slingerlands	W2XM, Bob - Albany
KC2DTL, Mike - Schenectady	W2ZP, Jim - Altamont
KC2FCR, Tom - Troy	WA2GMC, John - Old Westbury
KC2GAT, Tom - Selkirk	WA2IWW, Gerry - Albany
KC2GMW, Ramsey - Niskayuna	WA2QCY, John - Albany
KC2HCE, Frank - Cohoes	WB1M, Bill - Scotia
KF2LV, Kim - Saratoga Springs	WB2EAR, Dave - Rotterdam
KG2AO, Clark - Niskayuna	WR2L, Bill - Scotia
N1LJA, Paul - Saratoga Springs	WY2F, Paul - Clifton Park
N1RUR, Tony - Cornwall	WZ0ZZZ, Joe - Schenectady

See page 5 for official Thank You letter.

## ARRL EMERGENCY COMMS COURSE

The ARRL reports that once again, registration for the on-line Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (EC-001) wrapped up within 24 hours of the opening announcement. The Round 2 classes are filled. "With approximately 350 folks waiting to take the course, registration is first-come-first-served," said ARRL Certification Specialist Dan Miller, K3UFG. Miller explained that in order to maintain a ratio of 15 students to each mentor, each class can hold only 45 students.

Excerpted from the *ARRL Letter*

## ARRL/FCC RADIO RAGE

Entering his third year spearheading the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement effort, Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says "radio rage" could become a bigger danger to the future of Amateur Radio than rulebreaking.

"It's the infighting and arguments and juvenile spats," Hollingsworth said this week. "That's going to come back to haunt us if we don't just grow up. It will do the service in, if the ham community doesn't put a stop to it."

Hollingsworth said that he's encouraged that the FCC's enforcement program has the support of "99.9%" of the amateur community and that the vast majority of hams follow the rules. But, he said that radio rage in the form of such things as on-air squabbles or frequency fights can degrade the bands just as quickly as outright rulebreaking. "The FCC can't do anything about that," he said. "It's up to the amateur community."

Hollingsworth said that while much radio rage technically is not illegal, it reflects poorly on Amateur Radio and can balloon into an enforcement issue. More important, he said, rude or intemperate on-air behavior might provide just the sort of ammunition that an entity seeking additional spectrum will use against Amateur Radio.

Hollingsworth predicted that the departure January 19 of FCC Chairman William Kennard and the changing of the guard the White House the next day will not alter the course of the current amateur enforcement effort. He said he sees nothing but positive changes ahead.

"I'm willing to bet my SX-115 that we won't miss a beat," he said, referring to one of his latest acquisitions of vintage ham gear, "as long as the amateur community lets it be known it still wants enforcement."

Hollingsworth said it was pressure from the ARRL and individual amateurs that prompted the resumption of amateur enforcement in 1998 during Kennard's tenure, "and it's the type of program that needs that continual pressure to keep it going," he added. Overall complaints are down, Hollingsworth said, "but no one can be complacent."

From the *ARRL Letter*



## From the Editor's Shack The Attack Continues

Ham radio is under fire from both external and internal pressures. This issue has two examples: the Saratoga Springs tower case (page 1) and the Hollingsworth comments (this page).

Ham radio does have socially redeeming value! Just check out the reports on Amateur Radio's response to the Schenectady County communications emergency (Page 3).

What's to be done? Internally, the answer is easy—clean up our own act! Innuendo, both sexual and scatological, must go. Bickering and whining have no place on the ham bands, either. Folks, the public is out there listening and drawing their opinions about our service from what they hear. Not a nice thought!

Externally, our best hope is to vigorously support local and national organizations (such as the ARRL) that are working to protect our operating privileges. Support of individuals caught in the political quagmire is also a good idea. Fighting local government restrictions may be a bit like Don Quixote tilting at wind mills but if we stand together, we can be successful.

Public service and emergency communications is our only effective "hook" to justify the valuable frequencies we enjoy. Please, do your part!

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## Saratoga Springs Reviews Tower Denial

Continued from page 1

accommodate the tower by negotiation with Randy. This meeting was the result.

The Board listened, asked some questions they had asked before and then heard the presentations from the ham team and from protesting neighbors. One neighbor, who had a direct view of the tower location from across the street, vigorously supported the tower, saying Randy had made significant improvements to the property to the betterment of the neighborhood. The other neighbors were vehemently opposed and submitted a petition they said was signed by 60 people.

The Board said they would render a decision by February 7, 2001. If there is a denial again, Randy intends to carry the case back to the Federal District #2 Court. Since this may be a precedent case for all of Federal District #2, the support of the whole ham community might be required. Stay tuned!

### Emmeran A. Arnst, N2KMM, SK

It is my sad duty to report to all club members and fellow hams in the area that apparently our good friend and the kind gentleman of Caroga Lake, NY, Emm ( Emmeran A. Arnst ), N2KMM, became a silent key at Nathan Littenaur Hospital, Gloversville, NY, this morning. This was reported to us by Dick Arthur who, we understand, was visiting Emm who was breathing quite heavily, but apparently was still alive as Dick left. He died shortly thereafter. He was 81. de Bill, WR2L

Emm was a most interesting guy! A jack of all trades, he worked for a builder, at a fence company, a railroad delivery company and farmed a bit. He was a charter member of the Caroga Historical Association. Most of us will remember Emm as an avid ham. He entered the hobby late but really worked to gain proficiency—we struggled along with him. Always a calm voice with pleasant conversation, he will be missed, by SARA and the Tryon ARC.



### SCHENECTADY COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Disaster Preparedness Fire & EMS Coordination Auxiliary Police Communications Training & Awareness Haz-Mat Response Team

January 8, 2001  
RACES, Tim Long

Dear Tim:

I want to thank you, the RACES and ARES organizations and the local amateur radio people for their assistance on Thursday December 28, when the telephone company's switching center experienced a major failure. This failure caused a loss of telephone service to nearly all the county residents and businesses, including the emergency dispatch system.

As always, the local amateur radio organizations come to the aid of the community by providing valuable assistance, when they set up emergency contact points and roving radio operators to insure emergency service coverage was provided to the community.

As you know, it would have been very difficult for the Emergency Management/Fire Coordinators Office to insure the safety of resident without the assistance of volunteers like yourself.

Again, thank you, Races, and the amateur radio operators for their time and assistance in helping the community through this most difficult day.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Fiorillo Director

### Who to Contact in SARA

There are a number of ways to get in touch with the leaders of your club: contact on the air, E-mail (either direct or through sara@egroups.com) or by phone. The important thing is to let them know you want your club to be!

**Officers:**

- Pres.: Paul Siemers, WY2F (siemers@crd.ge.com) 371-0215
- VPres.: Rob Leiden, KR2L (bleiden1@nycap.RR.com) 399-9343
- Sec.: Jay Freud, K2QNU (SFreud7777@aol.com)
- Treas.: George Williams, W2CSN (williamg@tardis.union.edu) 377-6188
- Dirs: Dennis Hudson, N2LBT (n2lbt@n2lbt.com) 435-9730
- Tim Long, W2UI (WB2SPN) (longt@empireone.net) 399-7454
- Scott Krone, N2YCA (n2yca@juno.com) 273-1610
- Bob Raffaele, W2XM (w2xm@arrl.net) 459-8435

**Committees:**

- SARA News: Phil Bradway KB2HQ (kb2hq@juno.com)
- PIO: Rob Leiden KR2L (bleiden1@nycap.rr.com)
- Rept./K2AE: Howard Lester W2ODC (w2odc@empireone.net)
- RFI: Rudy Dehn W2JVF (w2jvf@juno.com)
- Membership: Bob Raffaele, W2XM (w2xm@arrl.net)
- VE Team: Bill Mischler, KG2AC

Public Service: We need your help

**VE test registration: Bill Mischler, KG2AC 370-1350**

### Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Inc

#### Membership Application-Renewal Form

Regular Dues	\$20.00	\$ _____
Spouse	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
Student	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
Repeater Fund Donation		\$ _____
Initiation Fee	\$ 5.00*	\$ _____

\*New Members Only

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL \_\_\_\_\_ RACES \_\_\_\_\_ ARES \_\_\_\_\_ MARS \_\_\_\_\_

Send to SARA, P.O. Box 207, Alplaus, N.Y. 12008-0207

June, 2001

## “Heard on the Bands”

Worked KB1DRA in Saco Maine just after Straight Key Night closed. He was transmitting with a single tube Hartley oscillator using a type 201 tube. The 201 was very popular in the 20's. Many broadcast receiving sets had all type 201 tubes. He gave his transmitter power as 4 Watts, and I did not ask how that was measured.

He had a very strong signal here and I gave him an RST of 589C. Explanation: We almost never hear anything other than a pure DC note on the air any more. A pure chirp should not result in a tone report of less than 9. ARRL suggests that the letter C be added when there is chirp present, and that the letter K be added when there is a key click present.

de Jim Ingleson, W2ZP (w2zp@arrl.net)

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### Recovering

Raleigh, K2RI - Home after surgery

Bette, KA2AME - Home after surgery

Get well QUICK!

February, 2001

## Technician Class Reminder

KA2BSA, with the help of SMARA, will be offering a full 12 week No Code Tech Class beginning on February 18th, 2001, and end on May 6th 2001 (weather permitting). The Cost is \$25.00 which includes the study book and other materials. Make checks payable to SMARA and send payment to: SMARA PO Box 6143 Schenectady, NY 12306. Classes will be held at the Schenectady Museum, 15 Nott Terr. Heights, off Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12308, Sundays, from 2-4 PM. Call Ray, N2ZQF at 765-2069 or John, KA8GRH at 382-7890 ext. 283 to sign up.

An exam session will be scheduled at the completion of the class. Exam fee will be \$ 10.00.

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