



# SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

March, 2001

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, March 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



## Elections are Coming

Bill Patmos has agreed to be the chair of the election committee for the 2000-2001 SARA year. Please put a short article in next month's SARA news notifying the membership of the appointment. If anyone wants to serve on the Board or be an officer they should contact Bill.

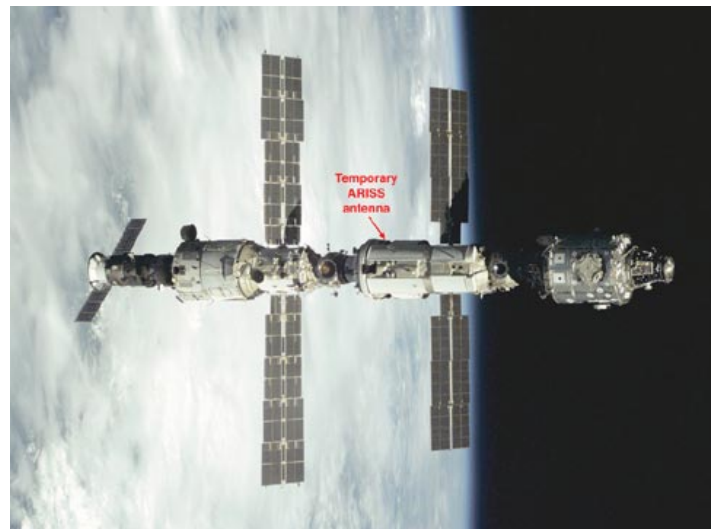
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## MIR/ISS

### Yes, We Are In The Space Age

Dr. John Delano will speak about the manned orbiting space crafts and their relationship to amateur radio. MIR has been around (pun intended) for quite a while and hams have had the opportunity to make contacts with the "flyers," especially in connection with the MAREX program, bringing space into the classrooms.



ISS in Orbit. AMSAT Graphic

The ISS is new; they are still building it. ARISS is in place to provide similar programs to MAREX. What a great way to have a piece of the action!

This presentation promises to be most interesting and informative. Come and enjoy!

## From the Board

Meetings - Thursday preceding the SARA meeting  
SARA BOARD MEETING MINUTES: February 1, 2001

1. Present at the February 1, 2001 meeting: Rob-KR2L, George-W2CSN, Tim-W2UI, Bob-W2XM, Jay-K2QNU and Paul-WY2F. Paul called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.
2. Motion to accept the minutes as published made by KR2L, second by Bob -W2XM. Motion carried.
3. George, W2CSN, closed the Broughton fund checking account at Fleet because the club was paying a monthly fee. The funds were moved to a Schwab brokerage account which has no monthly charges.
4. Public Service still needs a chairperson. Dennis, N2LBT, will take charge of the Scotia Memorial Day Parade. A request for this came in the mail and Dennis volunteered to head this event up.
5. VE sessions are taking place at the general meetings and the VE in charge is Bill, KG2AC. Bill is the contact person and his number is 370-1350.
6. W2XM gave a number of ideas on boosting membership to all those that were present.
7. Rob notified our local newspaper about our meetings and handled public relations as usual.
8. Programs: Rob let us know that the February meeting would have WA2AFD as the speaker. The weather was snowy that night and K2QNU cancelled the meeting. Speakers will be MIR/ISS in March, Red Cross and amateur radio in April. W2ML, the newly elected Vice Director of the Hudson Division, ARRL, will be back in May to tell of the largest public service event in the world.
9. Field Day was discussed. K2QNU wants a vacation from Field Day chair duties. KR2L has discussed a joint Field Day with the Air National Guard. Rob and Tim had a detailed antennae plan for the Field Day site. Included in that plan is a high flying kite antenna for 160 meters.
10. The Club archives are going to be overhauled and maybe even scanned and put into a digital format. Rudy, W2JVF, says that Bob Jannack wants a replacement. Dennis will ask Scott, N2YCA.
11. Paul, WY2F, has appointed Bill Patmos, W2DHT, as nominating committee chairman for the upcoming SARA Election in June. Anyone interested in serving on this committee, please contact Bill.
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. KR2L and W2XM  
Jay Freud, 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.

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.

Classic gear. Sonar Radio Corp SRT 120 80-10 m xmtr; RME VHF152A 11/10,6,2 meter converter; 2m am transmitter with 832 final; power supply; Hallicrafters speaker; Eico 352 bar generator; Sylvania 134Z polyster; Sola constant v transformer; dynamotor. Jim, K2PK, 399-1867.

### WANTED

The scouts of KA2BSA are looking for 2 laptop computers with 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.*



## Weather Drill

March 18-24, 2001



The National Weather Service, in partnership with the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission and the New York State Broadcasters Association, will be conducting the 13th annual Weather Hazards Awareness Week of March 18-24, 2001. Your active participation will be the key ingredient in the success of this campaign. The knowledge we gain from our combined efforts will likely save lives, prevent injury, or protect property. Please Join us!

This year, there will be only two communication drills. They will be run statewide, simultaneously, on Tuesday and Thursday. Each of the five National Weather Service offices serving the state will originate a test Severe Thunderstorm Warning at approximately 10:07 AM on Tuesday, March 20. Each of the five offices will also originate a test Tornado Warning at approximately 1:47 PM on Thursday, March 22. The list of offices are included in this packet along with the County Warning Area map. If hazardous weather or flooding actually threatens on either scheduled date, the drill will be postponed until the same day in the following week.

The drill serves several important purposes. First, it allows us to test all communications systems available to us when hazardous weather or flooding threatens, to determine if you are receiving our warnings, and receiving them quickly. Another reason for the drill is to prepare our staff for the upcoming hazardous weather season. For the warning system to work well our staff must be well trained, our plans must be up to date, and our equipment must operate properly. We want to solve any problems while we practice, so everything works smoothly when actual severe weather arrives.

The campaign also provides us with an opportunity to prorate severe weather safety to the general public. In addition to the practice warnings, we will also be issuing statements that will define severe weather terms and suggest safety precautions that everyone should know. We hope that you will give these statements and safety tips the widest possible distribution.

When the test warning messages go out, you may also want to check your local distribution, evacuation, or take shelter procedures, including the activation of amateur radio/SKYWARN networks. This will ensure that everyone knows what to do when hazardous weather threatens.

Schenectady County will be participating in this drill. All amateurs are asked to keep an ear out on 147.06 and the standard hazardous weather notification media. Let's all make the drill a success!

## Simple physics conversion tips

For those who thought the hardest part of Physics 101 was the constant conversion from MKS or CGS units to English units, here are some useful English system conversions.

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo Pi

2000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won ton

1 millionth of a mouthwash: 1 microscope

Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement:  
1 bananosecond

Weight an evangelist carries with God: 1 billigram

Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour:  
Knot-furlong

365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer: 1 lite year

16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone: 1 Rod Serling

Half of a large intestine: 1 semicolon

1000 aches: 1 megahertz

Basic unit of laryngitis: 1 horsepower

Shortest distance between two jokes: A straight line

453.6 graham crackers: 1 pound cake

1 million-million microphones: 1 megaphone

1 million bicycles: 2 megacycles

365.25 days: 1 unicycle

2000 mockingbirds: two kilomockingbirds

10 cards: 1 decacards

1 kilogram of falling figs: 1 Fig Newton

1000 grams of wet socks: 1 literhosen

1 millionth of a fish: 1 microfiche

1 trillion pins: 1 terrapin

10 rations: 1 decoration

100 rations: 1 C-ration

2 monograms: 1 diagram

8 nickels: 2 paradigms

2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale  
University Hospital: 1 I.V. League

100 Senators: Not 1 decision

TNX to ZL3AI

*You are only young and up  
and coming for so long,  
before you are old and going.  
....Anon*

## ARRL/FCC

### LF-to-LF Transatlantic Amateur Contact is Completed

Amateur Radio history was made this month when amateurs in Canada and the UK completed what appears to be the first two-way transatlantic Amateur Radio exchange on 136 kHz. Larry Kayser, VA3LK, and Lawrence "Laurie" Mayhead, G3AQC, managed the LF feat using extremely slow CW that featured 90-second-long dits and 180-second-long dahs. The two-way contact took two weeks to complete. (*My kind of CW. Ed.*)

"We are the first to do a two-way QSO on LF across the North Atlantic as far as I am concerned," Kayser said. "We are the ones who put the stakes in the ground; others will build on what we have done."

The VA3LK-G3AQC contact began February 5 and was completed February 19 with the reception and confirmation of VA3LK's report by G3AQC. Both stations used spectrographic software and computers for receiving. The participants agreed in advance to a "firewall" between them for the duration of the contact and that all QSO information was exchanged over the LF radio link.

The UK has an amateur band at 136 kHz. While Canada has not yet authorized general Amateur Radio operation on 136 kHz, Kayser and a few other Canadian amateurs have received special authorization to conduct LF experiments there.

G3AQC and VA3LK were using a combination of commercial and surplus equipment at their respective stations. G3AQC estimated his effective radiated power at 350 mW, while VA3LK said he might have been at the 5 W ERP level.

In October 1998, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The FCC has not yet acted on the request.

### ARRL BOARD APPROVES DUES INCREASE, ALTERS MORSE POSITION

Meeting in Irving, Texas, January 19 and 20, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues from \$34 to \$39 annually for full members younger than 65, and from \$28 to \$34 for full members 65 and older. The dues hike goes into effect July 1, 2001. The last ARRL dues increase was in July 1997.

The dues increase resulted from a need to fund initiatives to expand the League's advocacy activities on behalf of Amateur Radio—including the defense of amateur spectrum—and to enhance ARRL Headquarters' abilities to serve members during a period of projected deficits. The Board okayed a \$1 greater increase for seniors in an effort to narrow the dues gap, as more and more ARRL members fall into the senior category.

At the same time, the Board approved the hiring of development and sales and marketing professionals on the Headquarters staff as part of an overall plan to augment revenues.

"The ARRL carries out a lot of activities that no longer can be fully funded by dues or publication sales revenues," ARRL



### From the Editor's Shack Trying it Again

The amateur community is again pushing to get a New York State version of PRB 1 enacted. Assembly bill, A1565 is in the works this session and a companion Senate bill should be following soon. Last session, you may recall, our bill got caught up in the attempted Assembly coup. The bill's sponsor ended up on the wrong side! With a little (a lot?) of luck and your support we may be successful this time.

Much thanks should be given to Frank Fallon, Hudson Division Director, and the PRB 1 committee for their work so far. Only with such team work can amateur radio survive the various pressures it's under. The old saying "United we stand, divided we fall," has never been truer!

Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained. While voluntary contributions towards Amateur Radio advocacy are helping greatly, "we need to professionalize these activities if we are going to sustain them," he said.

Sumner said putting more emphasis on voluntary contributions was "the only route to financial security" for the ARRL. Among ARRL programs that will rely heavily on voluntary contributions is "The Big Project" educational initiative proposed last year by ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP.

The Board also revised its position on whether Morse code proficiency should continue to be an international licensing requirement for operation below 30 MHz. The Board approved a resolution that "recognizes and accepts" that the Morse requirement likely will be dropped from Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. But the Board held the line on retaining a domestic Morse requirement, saying that each country should be allowed to determine for itself whether it wants to have a Morse requirement.

The Board declared that Morse code deserves continued support as "an important operating mode" as well as in terms of spectrum and "should be retained as a testing element in the US." The resolution also calls on ARRL Headquarters staff to "develop a program designed to promote the use of Morse."

The resolution supersedes all previous Board policy statements regarding Morse code and Article S25.

The Board also established a committee to solicit membership input to update the ARRL's position on reforming the HF Novice bands "in light of the 1999 FCC license restructuring Report and Order." The five-member panel will be named by President Haynie. It will report to the board in one year. *de ARRL Letter*

## The Joys of QRO VHF Contesting

### SWL - W1 Report

DATE: 1/20/2001      FREQ: 6m  
 TIME: +/- 00:13      MODE: SSB  
 CALL: N1ABY          UR RST: 49  
 RIG: Fisher Price #71566 Baby Minder  
 ANT: Rubber duck

COMMENTS: FB on your 6m signal during the January VHF contest. My 2 year old was especially impressed at how strong your signal was coming through her FM baby minder. It must have been a short opening as you were only in for about 10 minutes.  
 73, Les Peters, N1SV

## Joseph J. Jarek – W2TKA SK

We have lost another of the SARA Old Timers, Joe Jarek W2TKA. Again, I think of my Irish Grandfather who said that the hardest part of growing old is losing all your friends. Joe was a great fellow to work with. Never complaining, always a friendly smile, and absolute competence. He was another of the “kids” who started with the thrill of ham radio and carried it along to a career with GE Corporate Labs. He was a valuable part of many projects, both as a ham and as a professional. At work I remember him doing development testing of super power wave guide, and running precise X-Band radar antenna patterns. As a ham he was more of an experimenter than “on air.” He showed up now and then at SARA meetings and was that quiet, smiling, big fellow with blonde, now gray, hair toward the back of the room. Joe, OM, you will be missed.

*de W2ODC*

Need help with RFI problems? SARA has a RFI Committee that may be able to help. Get in touch with Rudy Dehn, W2JVF (see below) for advice. Interference matters are VERY important. Nothing can turn off the public more than one of us squawking through a neighbor’s TV or stereo. It’s almost worse than the “ugly” tower in the back yard

## 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

## Web Staff

Radio mods - <http://www.mods.dk/>  
WX radar - <http://weather.noaa.gov/radar/national.html>  
Active VHFers - <http://www.qsl.net/ve2pij>  
<http://www.icomamerica.com/downloads/bandchar.pdf>

## Solar Max

February 15, 2001 - NASA says that the Sun's magnetic field has flipped, which always happens around the time of a solar maximum. David Hathaway, a solar physicist at the Marshall Space Flight Center, says "The magnetic poles exchange places at the peak of the sunspot cycle. In fact, it's a good indication that Solar Max is really here."

More information can be found under "The Sun Does a Flip" at <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines>.

SEC charts of smoothed sunspot activity indicate that the solar maximum most likely occurred in August or September of 2000. There is normally some uncertainty about the time of the peak. There are several different indicators. It will be possible for scientists to tell the time of the maximum more precisely after it has passed.

de Jim, W2ZP

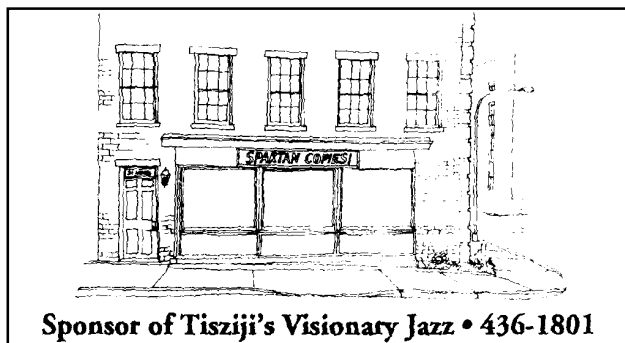
March, 2001

## KA2BSA Up-Date

The Technician license class being instructed by member of KA2BSA and SMARA has started. We had our first class Sunday afternoon February 18, 2001 at the Schenectady Museum. There are 11 Scouts and Scouters enrolled in the class from both Troop 73 and Troop 71. We have a total of 17 students. Of the 17 students more than 50% are youth participants. It is great to see so many kids involved in this class. The final class and test session will be in May. I will keep you posted of the outcome of the class and the new call signs as they receive them.

de Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

We thank **Spartan Copies** for the help with printing, etc., of SARA News. It is appreciated.



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