



SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

May, 2001

K2AE Repeaters

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

Elections are Coming

The Nominating Committee: N2LBT, W2XM, and W2DHT is pleased to present the new Slate of Officers for the 2001-2002 year. Club officers shall be elected by ballot by the SARA members at the "Annual Business Meeting" on June 4, 2001.

Nominees for the 2001-2002 year slate are:

President: Rob Leiden, KR2L

Vice President: Brian Macherone, AB2IU

Secretary: Jay Freud, K2QNU

Treasurer: George Williams, W2CSN

Directors: Paul Siemers, WY2F - Director as Past President; Tim Long, W2UI; Bob Raffaele, W2XM and Emanuel Shulman, AA2TT.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to the balloting as provided by the SARA Bylaws.

Our thanks go to the present board and many others for a successful year. Thank you Dennis Hudson and Bob Raffaele for your work on this committee.

Respectfully submitted by W. Patmos, Nominating Committee Chair

RACES

There will be a meeting of the Schenectady County RACES Group on Wednesday May 2, 2001 at 7:30 PM at the EOC in the Schenectady Police Station. An agenda for the meeting will be sent via e-mail prior to the meeting for those we have e-mail addresses for. Plan to meet in the lobby before the 7:30 hour and we will go down stairs together.

Raleigh Keeter, K2RI, RO Schenectady Co. RACES

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NYC Marathon and maybe some other stuff

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, has promised to give us the inside story of the New York Marathon. The race is one of the road races and it attract a multitude of runners. Logistics are a bear! Ham radio has provided communications for the event for many years and has been doing the coordination. Often, some of our local hams participate and they report "it's a ball!" It should be an interesting presentation.



Photo from the official NYC Marathon web site

Steve has just been elected as Vice Director of the Hudson Division after a short hiatus from the ARRL Hierarchy. We're sure he will give us an idea of what's going on in the League, from his perspective. Lots of things happening. Come and join us for what promises to be a pleasant evening.

From the Board

Meetings - Thursday preceding the SARA meeting.
All members are welcome!

SARA Board Meeting Minutes for April Meeting: 3/29/2001

1. Meeting called to order by Paul, WY2F, at 7:08 PM. Present were Paul, WY2F; Bob, W2XM; Rob, KR2L; Jay, K2QNU; Tim, W2UI; and Bill, W2DHT. Motion to accept the minutes as published in SARA News was made and second by Rob, KR2L and Bob, W2XM.
2. Bob, W2XM, gave Membership report. Bob states that he expects 5 new member applications to be made. New members are being recruited from the area. Bob is planing a Field Day guest list to be mailed out. Bob will be using a sign in roster at the meetings. This was in use in previous years.
3. We received correspondence from the U.S. Post Office about an upcoming bulk mailing seminar which will be held over the next several months. We received the NOBARC Newsletter, the Squelch tail, which stated that our subscription is running out. We also received a letter from K1WHS, winner of the June 2000 VHF QSO plaque, He thanked SARA for the donation of the plaque to the ARRL. James Stewart, K2PK, sent in a donation to the SARA repeater fund.
4. Public Service and a new Chairman for this position were the topic of conversation. SARA is still looking for a person to take on the responsibilities. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this position should see Paul, WY2F. Raleigh, K2RI has said that he would help out with the next event. SARA may work with The Albany ARA on an event. Laurie, N2OSB will be the contact.
5. Field Day has new co-chairmen, KR2L, Rob and W2UI, Tim. We expect to see a great time with all the new antenna plans.
6. Club Archives. Jay, K2QNU will pick up the materials from Bob Janack and will begin to scan and send these most important records to the SARA Web Site. Special thanks are given to Bob Janack, WA2DWU, for serving as Historian for many years.
7. Safety Deposit Key. The search for the missing key continues. It still has not been found.
8. Nomination Committee report from bill, W2DHT. Bill has been speaking to board members and to club members. W2DHT, N2LBT, and W2XM will be canvassing the membership for any one wishing to serve on the board of directors. Bill ,Dennis and Bob are all working together on this. Anyone wishing to serve should call one of these individuals.
9. Motion to close the meeting was made by Rob, KR2L and was seconded by K2QNU. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

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 - \$30. Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938, kb2hq@nycap.rr.com.

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.

A dry cell battery case(EDH-5) for an ALINCO model DJ-FIT. If any one can help please call 399-3464 or rhomic@juno.com Ray Homic KB2VUS

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, or call Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938 -- *before 9:30 PM, please*. You can also send direct to kb2hq@nycap.RR.com.

**New e-mail address for the Editor
<kb2hq@nycap.RR.com.>**

Due to the new Juno service agreement, The kb2hq@juno.com e-mail address has been dropped. If you are on Juno, read the new agreement very carefully. You may not want to accept it!

SETI

(Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence)

* SETI League bouncing signals off moon: With financial assistance from the American Astronomical Society, The SETI League Inc has placed on the air a transmitter that bounces microwave signals off the moon's surface for use in testing Earth-based radiotelescopes. Operating on 1296 MHz under the call sign W2ETI, the EME beacon enables amateur and professional radio astronomers to calibrate their receiving systems by providing a stable reference signal from a known point in the sky. The SETI League's EME beacon received its first shakedown in March, providing scientists at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico with a weak, well-calibrated test signal for use in conjunction with the Project Phoenix targeted search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Project Phoenix scientists had formerly used a microwave transmitter aboard the Pioneer 10 spacecraft for this purpose. Twenty nine years after its launch, Pioneer 10 is now outside our solar system, seven billion miles from Earth, and its 8 W beacon is too weak to be received—even by Arecibo. The SETI League promotes a privatized search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. The organization boasts more than 1200 members in 60 countries, many of the Amateur Radio operators. Its executive director is Paul Shuch, N6TX. For more information, visit the SETI League Web site, <http://www.setileague.org/>.



SETI League photo, used by permission

In thermodynamics, the first law is...You can't get anything without working for it.
J. H. Tellechea

Antennas and weather

Joe, K1JT, asked the following question, among others, on one of the VHF reflectors. With antenna season upon us, maybe a few hints on the subject would be in order.

1. What seems to work best toward waterproofing a type-N male connector joined to the type-N females on power dividers or yagi driven elements? The replies are as follows:

From Bob Dodson, WB5APD: I wrap all my connectors with electrical tape, then cover the tape with coax seal. I use the electrical tape because removing the coax seal is a mess unless you have the electrical tape under it. I wrap and cover 100% of the connectors and all the way over the feed line about 1".

From Shelby Ennis, W8WN: The ONLY thing I've found to work - most of the time - is silicon rubber. I know, others swear by other things, most of which I've tried. And dumped. And they talk about the damage the acetic acid is supposed to cause. And a properly-installed N connector is itself waterproof.

From Jim Shaffer, WB9UWA: Use a layer of rubber tape sold at Menards. Follow this with a good layer of vinyl tape. It is clean and easy to remove. Rubber tape degrades in sunlight, so the vinyl tape is a must have. Vinyl tape will not keep out water.

From Jerry Johnson, K0CQ: Shrink tubing with the inside that melts should waterproof most any connector. A combination of Scotchkote and #33 (or #88 for cold weather application) tape (don't accept substitutes, they are NOT the same!) in several layers is effective at waterproofing all kinds of electrical connections, even those being buried underground. I have connections outside, sometimes buried in snow that have been working fine for decades, bare brass connectors on aluminum CATV coax with just Scotch #88 for protection. Scotchkote is becoming hard to buy. Coax-seal as sold at RS is not useful for anything in the sun but making a mess. It does not maintain a closed cover. It dries up and cracks.

From Carl Huether, KM1H: A double layer of Scotch 88 or its related (and some improved) cousins works fine for me up in New Hampshire. I've had cables that I put up 1989-90, during my contest mania days, that I stripped last fall that still look like new after removing the tape. I'm talking about REAL Scotch Brand, not flea market or discount store import junk! When applying tape don't be cheap —overlap at least 60% — and the outside wrap should be oriented so that water runs off rather than sitting on the joint. If possible the tape should go 2 inches either side of the connector.

From Chris Patterson, W3CMP: I use Scotch #33 tape and then put clear silicone aquarium seal ("silastic") over the tape, and overlap the coax. I've never seen water get into one of these—it's easy to remove the silastic and tape if you have to: cut through it carefully with a razor blade.

From Adam Epstein, N2DHH: I like a layer of 3M #23 (rubber splicing tape), followed by a layer of Skotchkote (electrical sealer), followed by another layer of #23. Give the Skotchkote 10 minutes or so to dry before you tape over it. The outer layer of tape protects the Skotchkote from being degraded by ultraviolet. If your installation is on a tower, do as much of the waterproofing (pigtailed, etc) as you can on the ground.

More next month

ARRL/FCC

ARLB013 FCC holds the line on license restructuring

The FCC has declined to make any significant changes to the way it implemented Amateur Radio "restructuring" last April. The Commission has turned down several requests for changes in the Amateur Service rules contained in five petitions for partial reconsideration of its Report and Order WT Docket 98-143, released December 30, 1999. The ARRL was among the petitioners.

In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released April 6, the FCC by and large denied all petitions for changes to its restructuring Order. It took the opportunity to make some minor housekeeping changes to the amateur rules.

Among the issues was a request from the ARRL and other petitioners that the FCC continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has Morse code element credit. The FCC noted that its current Universal Licensing System software was modified to display a "P" (for Plus) in the field that indicates former license class when a Technician Plus class license is renewed. "This capability results in the amateur service database being able to provide a de facto Technician Plus licensee database," the FCC asserted in its MO&O. The FCC did not address how its database would distinguish current Technician licensees who subsequently earn Morse code (Element 1) credit. Those licensees have only a Certificate of Completion of Examination (CSCE), which will never be reflected in the database, even upon license renewal.

The FCC also decided to not extend Element 1 credit to all past licensees who had ever earned it—something else the ARRL had asked for. Under current rules, the holder of an expired Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician license can get Element 1 credit. The FCC said the change was not needed and that "most examinees" who ever held a General, Advanced or Amateur Extra ticket also once held a Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician ticket that grants Element 1 credit.

The FCC also declined to extend permanent credit to Element 1 CSCEs held by Technicians to obtain HF privileges. These CSCEs are good for 365 days for upgrading purposes but confer only additional operating privileges beyond that time.

The FCC refused to reinstate the 20 WPM Morse code exam for Extra. The FCC said that since restructuring went into effect nearly a year ago, "there does not appear to be any decline in the proper operation of amateur stations." The FCC also declined to ban the practice of allowing applicants to retake a failed examination element at a single test session simply by paying a second fee. The Commission also turned down a proposal to set the total number of questions at 50 for the Technician and General class test and at 100 for the Amateur Extra test.

The FCC also declined to make any changes—at least for now—in the arrangement of mode-related Amateur Radio subbands, as some petitioners had requested.

Also denied were requests to: institute a new entry-level Communicator license class in the Amateur Service; elevate former



From the Editor's Shack The Busy Season

It's Spring and a young man's fancy turns to Field Day and antenna work. Of course, there's yard work to do and maybe it's time to flush the salt off of the cars but ya gotta set priorities! Rob, KR2L and Tim, W2UI, are co-chairs for Field Day and knowing

those two, it's bound to be a great event. Field Day is really whatever you want it to be. A contest, a picnic, a 24 hour bull session, a training ground for setting up radio stations—YES! It'll be fun either way. Mark your calendar for June 23-24. Come and enjoy.

Now about that antenna work.....

Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Award

The Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Award is presented yearly to a deserving Ham Radio Operator who is to be honored for making contributions in public service, training, or technical achievements while furthering the goals of Amateur Radio. This award was created by Bill Broughton, W2IR, in memory of his father Henry, K2AE. The award is to be presented to the winner at the June 4 SARA meeting. The award carries with it a Plaque, Medallion, a pin, and a check.

William (Bill) Patmos, W2DHT, was last years recipient of the award and is chairing this year's award committee. This committee is made up of former award winners: Phil Bradley, KB2HQ; Raleigh Keeter, K2RI, and W2DHT. We are actively seeking nominations for candidates for this prestigious award.

Please submit a written nomination for someone you feel should receive this award. The nomination submitted needs to briefly describe why you feel that the named person should be considered for the award. The written nomination does not need to be formally prepared and typed, but must be legible.

All nominations must be received by May 7, 2001. Thank you for your nominations. The nomination period closes at the SARA Meeting on May 7, 2001.

Send your nominations by E-mail to: W2DHT@arrl.net OR Mail/give to: Bill Patmos, W2DHT 1054 Maryland Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12308

"Class A" operators licensed prior to 1951 to Amateur Extra; and give Element 4 exam credit to examinees who had held a Conditional, General or Advanced ticket before November 22, 1968—when "incentive licensing" became effective.

The FCC MO&O is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143-recon.pdf>.

Excerpted from the *ARRL Letter*



HAM NUMBERS SHOW GROWTH SPURT

Amateur Radio is experiencing a bit of a growth spurt in the wake of amateur license restructuring. FCC statistics show a net gain of approximately 6600 current licensees, or about 1%, from last April, when restructuring went into effect.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the full impact of license restructuring—including the elimination of the 13 and 20-WPM Morse exams—is slowly making itself felt within the amateur community.

As of the end of March, the FCC showed 684,359 current licensees on its books. More than 20,000 new amateurs entered the hobby over the past year, while attrition was on the order of 13,600.

Overall, statistics show growth in the number of Extra, General and Technician licensees from year-earlier figures, while the number of Advanced, Tech Plus and Novice licensees declined.

The ARRL VEC's first quarter 2001 numbers shows that interest in the Extra class license is up by as much as 30% over the first quarters of 1999 and 2000. Interest in the General license is up 450% to 650%!

With the change to a new, 50-question Extra class written element that combines material formerly covered in the 90 questions contained within the old Advanced and Extra tests, some predicted the Extra test would be easier to pass. That's not proving to be the case this year. The Extra pass rate has declined by nearly 7% from 1999.

Excerpted from the ARRL Letter

Eastern VHF/UHF Conference

Due to unforeseen circumstances with Hotel reservations, this years conference will have to be moved from August 24, 25 & 26 to August 31, September 1 & 2. We hope that this will not cause any problems for anyone. With the Holiday weekend and an extra day off maybe more people will be able to attend. We are in the process of finalizing the speakers and proceedings. Anyone wishing to present a paper, either in person or for the proceedings, should contact Bruce, N2LIV. The conference will be held in the same location as last year, the Radisson Hotel in Enfield, CT. Further info will be forth coming and available on the NEWS Web site as it develops.

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@nycap.RR.com)
- PIO: Rob Leiden KR2L (bleiden1@nycap.rr.com)
- Rept./K2AE: Howard Lester W2ODC (hlester@nycap.RR.com)
- 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

SKYWARN TRAINING

If you have not had a SKYWARN training session for 2-years, or you wish to sign up for SKYWARN, go to the following link for latest schedule of SKYWARN training sessions and sign up information. Note that you have to pre-register before the session, which you can do on the web site, also. <http://web.nws.cestm.albany.edu/Special%20Prog/SPRING20012.htm>

73 Howard...w2odc, SKYWARN Coordinator for Schenectady County.

The Hudson Loop is no more

Since last August I have attempted to get the "Hudson Loop" back in operation, but to no avail. It is, unfortunately, simply a case of volunteer burn out. A few attempts were made to restart the process but none were successful. Family and business pressures just became too great. I wish to thank Richard Sandell, WK6R, Steve Anderman, W2SMA, and Bob Chamberlain, N2KBC, for four years of great service to us all. Their weekly efforts were very much appreciated by all and will be missed. Thanks guys for a great job.

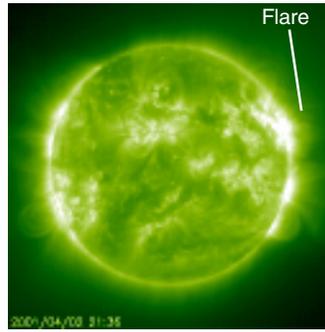
Frank Fallon, N2FF, Director, Hudson Division

SARA web site

<http://www.rpi.edu/~brandp/sara/index.html>

Get the latest on SARA activities

May, 2001



SOLAR FLARE: The most powerful flare of the current solar cycle — an X17-class event — erupted near sunspot 9393 at 2150 UT on April 2nd. The event was even more powerful than a similar flare in March 1989 that led to the well-known collapse of a power grid in Quebec. No

such calamities are likely this time, however, because sunspot 9393 is near the Sun's west limb; the bulk of the explosion was directed away from Earth.

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



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