



SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

December, 2001

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, December 10 2001 at 7:00 PM, Olin Hall, Union College

Note the Date of the December Meeting!

December 10, 2001, 7 PM

Price Chopper Community Center

There Will be NO Meeting on the
3rd of December

It's a Party!

The next SARA meeting will be held Monday December 10, 2001 and will be the holiday party. It will be at the Price Chopper Community Room on Eastern Parkway in Schenectady directly across the street from the Eastern Parkway Price Chopper and next door to the Fireside Restaurant.

We haven't been able to have a Holiday party in a while, due to the college restriction on food. It's time! We've missed the annual opportunity for fellowship—and good food.

We have been contacting SARA members to encourage them to bring something to help fill out a list of needs or some special food treat that they would like to share for the holidays. We are listing "who is bringing what" on the web so people can get an idea what is needed. Check the link on SARAs web page (see page 6). To volunteer food items, contact Brian S. Macherone, AB2IU Home: 518 374-4199 Email: ab2iu@arrl.net

It sounds like a great time. Come and join us. Let's start the holiday season off right.



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From the Board

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

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Those present at the November 1, 2001 meeting were Rob Leiden-KR2L, Brian Macherone -AB2IU, Jay Freud-K2QNU, George Williams -W2CSN, Bob Raffaele -W2XM, Paul Seimers -WY2F and Tim Long -W2UI. The meeting began at 7:00 PM and ended at 8:00 PM. The meeting was held at the Science and Engineering building.

The Treasurer gave the Treasurer's Report and it was accepted, The Minutes were accepted.

One new member was voted in to the club, welcome to David Paul-N2LTZ.

There is to be a Holiday Christmas Party on December the 10th at the Price Chopper Community Room. For information, what to bring, etc., contact AB2IU-Brian Macherone. The regular Monthly Meeting, normally held on the first Monday, December 3, will be **replaced** by the Party.

Jay Freud, K2QNU, Secretary

RACES

Schenectady County RACES is in the process of planning a drill to address the glitches found on the September 11 event. If ham radio is to truly fulfill its role in providing emergency communications, we must have training in how to properly carry out that function.

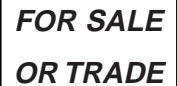
Stay tuned for further developments!

Public Service

Those participating in the Stockadeathon were N2PEQ, N2SQO, KB2NKO, W2DHT, K2RI, KC2GMW, KG2AO, W2BEJ, KA2TJZ, KB2TSA, AA2CW and KC2CKL.

de Ken AA2CW

The Trading Post



FOR SALE
OR TRADE

FREE - surplus BC-453-B receiver; a home-brew transmatch including swr meter, rf ammeter, etc; a bunch of pretty good variable capacitors, and miscellaneous junk box stuff. Also, for \$10, a very nice roller inductor. With a couple of the variable capacitors this would make a dandy transmatch. Also, for \$30, a 2 meter Mirage amplifier, 10 w. in, 80 w. out, with receive pre-amp and diagram included, and for \$ 5 a ham-m antenna rotor including original manual and direction indicator meter. Dick, W2YB, 372-0323.

For Sale or trade: QST Magazine (& other ARRL periodicals) on CD-Rom for the year 1998. w2zp@arrl.net or 861-6269.

For Sale: 2 meter, 30 Watt HT amplifier. RS, like new. \$35. Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938.

Wanted: QST Magazine for 1st half of year 2000. That is, January through June, 2000. w2zp@arrl.net or 861-6269.

Wanted: Cheap! 75 meter mobile antenna or two. Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938

Free: Pole mount repeater cabinate including a Prog Line repeater for parts or rebuild. Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938

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.

Here come the Judge

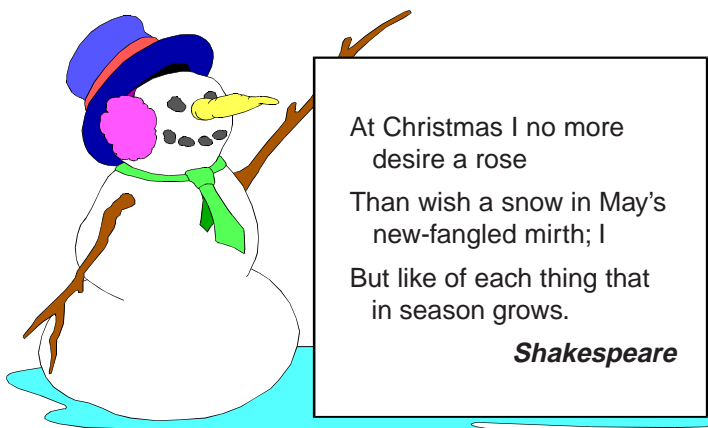
We have a new "JP" in Niskayuna. Paul Zonderman, W2PZ, was successful in his quest for the Town Justice position and now it is "hizz honor." Paul has been extremely active on behalf of amateur radio, especially antenna cases. Such interest and skill will surely carry forward in his new career. We wish him well!

ARRL/FCC/NYS

From Frank Fallon, N2FF, Director, Hudson Division, ARRL

Last month I said: "As we have all recently learned, it is not a perfect world out there. We need to blow our own horn and get recognition for amateur radio's role in providing communications after the attack. We are not all going to get our name or picture in the paper but it sure would be nice if a few of us did. And yes, it is likely that some, who spent long hours in very uncomfortable and dangerous places, may not get the recognition they deserve. That's an unfortunate reality, but we do not, I hope, volunteer our services for glory. Thanks to all whose names may not have been in ARRL bulletins or QST articles for doing such an outstanding job and helping bring credit to Amateur Radio. There is a follow up article in the works, which will probably appear in the January issue of QST. The American Red Cross still has not provided us, as promised, with a list of operators who responded during the 911 attack. We did not let them or New York City down, but they sure let us down. Our local ARES folks with the aid of AB2M, Joe Tomosone, provided ARC with a great FREE software package used over the Internet to process volunteers. The understanding was that ARC would later provide us with a list of operators. When asked for the list they reneged claiming "privacy concerns." I have now joined a long list of people disappointed with the American Red Cross. I was thus very happy to see us supporting the Salvation Army at the Rockaway crash earlier this week. We continue to work with the national ARC to see if we can free up the list and make many us feel better about the organization.

The November QST article has now been added to the ARRL web site and will, I am sure, be used for some time to come as part of our public relations hand outs to local government and others to explain the value of ham radio. As I continue to point out, whenever I get the opportunity; it is our ARES operators and their participation in events like the NYC Marathon, the World Trade Center Attack on 9/11, and now the recent Flight 587 Rockaway Crash, which earn both nationwide recognition and respect for Amateur Radio. These actions justify the spectrum we have and enable us to get permission for ham towers from local government. In fact, it is not clear that anyone can expect to get a tower variance without being an ARES member. I have never seen a presentation or a legal brief



At Christmas I no more
desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's
new-fangled mirth; I
But like of each thing that
in season grows.

Shakespeare

where the ham was not already an ARES, RACES or MARS member.

With a resurgence of good old American patriotism I had thought that we would see more new applications for ARES membership. Reports I get from SEC's are a little disappointing, as there has been no great swell to fill ARES ranks. Emergency communications is something you need to train for before the event. Many of you heard a few operators whose skills left much to be desired after 9/11. Fortunately there were very few of those. If you want to participate you need to join ARES and undergo training or you may well find that your services will not be used during the next emergency. We really cannot afford to have untrained operators give us a black eye. Emergency communications is as serious as Amateur Radio gets.

I want to wish you all a good Thanksgiving. I am sure that after what we have all been through in the last two months the day will have very special significance for us all this year. We have been through a series of experiences where some of us have had a chance to help our neighbors and our country during recent events. We are all now glad we studied, worked, persevered and got that license and then stuck with the hobby/service so that we would be able to truly help others. Enjoy the day with family and friends.

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The annual Skywarn Recognition Day Event will be on December 1, 2001, Saturday. Please let Howard, W2OCC know by e-mail <w2odc@nycap.rr.com> if you are planning on being available to attend. He would like your comments on whether we should try to use the SARA antenna tower this year. We do have a tow vehicle.

Note that operations will be on HF and VHF, but not 160m since that weekend is also the ARRL 160m contest. With the 10-15-20-40-80 meter bands all in good condition (please, no big flares and corona emissions like last week), we can choose our operational frequencies. My suggestion is most emphasis on 20m, 40m and 10m, with 20 and 80m after sundown. Hours of operation and scheduling will be set up in the next 2-weeks. Any special considerations of individuals would be good to know promptly.

Note: With increased security, everyone will need a picture ID with them. My suggestion is to wear your RACES ID picture badge while on premises at NWS. More later. See Nov QST pgs 76-77 and/or <http://hamradio.noaa.gov> for more information.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29, 2001 — After years of Taliban propaganda, the Afghan people are hearing another voice.

By Jim Garamone American Forces Press Service

At any time of the day or night, an Air Force Special Operations Command EC-130E Commando Solo II is in the area of operations and broadcasting news and information to the Afghan people. The aircraft fly a variety of missions. Here, they're broadcasting music, news and information in the various languages of the country. These are radio broadcasts only. The planes are part of the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Army specialists in the language and customs of the area prepare the broadcasts. The capability allows U.S. Central Command planners to warn the Afghan population to stay away from Taliban and Al Qaeda targets. The broadcasts stress that the coalition campaign is not aimed at the Afghan people, but at the terrorists and their Taliban supporters.

"We have no wish to hurt you, the innocent people of Afghanistan," reads one English translation of a broadcast. "Stay away from military installations, government buildings, terrorist camps, roads, factories or bridges."

Another broadcast told the people of Afghanistan why the United States is attacking the Taliban and Al Qaeda. "On Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of people were killed en masse in the United States," it reads. "Among them was a two-year-old girl. Barely able to stand or dress herself. Did she deserve to die? Why was she killed you ask? Was she a thief? What crime had she committed? She was merely on a trip with her family to visit her grandparents. Policemen, firefighters, teachers, doctors, mothers, father, sisters, brothers all killed. Why?"

The broadcast went on to explain that the attacks in New York and the Pentagon were on innocent people—an act forbidden by the Muslim Koran. "(The terrorists) believe they are heroes, Ghazi warriors triumphing over the evil of the West." "However, the truth is they are murderers and do not represent Islam." Ghazi warriors are early Muslim heroes.

Ham radio operators can listen to the broadcast at 8700 kilohertz, said Air Force 1st Lt. Edward Shank, a spokesman for the squadron. The squadron has participated in operations in Panama, Bosnia, Kosovo and during the Gulf War. Their aircraft have been modified to not only handle radio, but television broadcasts. They can broadcast via tape or live. "If needed, we have the capability to take a speech by the President of the United States and beam it live via satellite to the aircraft, which then would broadcast it," Shank said.

The name "Commando Solo II" also has meaning. Commando refers to the special operations mission, and Solo refers to the fact that the aircraft can go it alone. The Commando Solo is flown by the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Visit the Defense Department's newest Web site for the latest news and information about America's response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the war against terrorism: "Defend America" at <http://www.DefendAmerica.mil>.



From the Editor's Shack

Quite a Year!

I'd just as soon avoid another one like it, if its all the same to you. The World Trade Center is gone, along with 5000 innocents. We're back on a war footing, with US military personnel in life threatening combat situations. Politics is returning to its bickering normal after a short period of professed cooperation. Civil libertarians are worrying about a slight restriction on privacy when terrorists and criminals, both domestic and foreign, are freely floating around our country. It makes you wonder—just where is the world going. We'll have to hope that 2002 will be better. Perhaps some of the international problems will ease off a bit and the economy will improve.

On an other front, ham radio is both praised for the response to the recent emergencies and stabbed in the back with threats to reallocate our frequencies. The antenna restriction dilemma remains. Towns are digging in their heels and we have not been too successful in getting state government off dead center on the PRB-1 legislation.

There is a bright side, though. Six meters has been open, the last meteor shower was spectacular, visually and RF wise. HF DX has been generally good and the manufacturers are putting out some new rigs for us to play with.

Now, if the antennas will only stay up over the winter.....

ARLB047 - W1AW seeking 40-meter reports

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW has made some hardware changes to its 40-meter bulletin/code practice transmitter and now is seeking signal reports.

Reports should note location, time of reception, mode, signal strength and quality. Use of the standard RST system is acceptable.

Mail reports on a postcard to W1AW 40-meter reports, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. E-mail reports may be sent to w1aw@arrl.org.

W1AW's schedule calls for Morse practice Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 AM Eastern and Morse practice/bulletins Mondays through Fridays 4-6 PM Eastern, both on 7047.5 kHz. The weekday digital transmission begins at 6 PM Eastern on 7095 kHz. A phone bulletin is transmitted daily at 9:45 PM Eastern on 7290 kHz. *It's 599 here at 9 AM, Ed.*



License Renewal

I had some questions about how hard it was to renew your ham license electronically via <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>

Well, it took me about 10 minutes. I renewed on a Tuesday and got my new license in the mail today 4 days later. All you do is register your TIN using your Social Security #, associate it with your callsign(s), and you're ready to fill out the renewal online. The RF Safety thing with your station is just something you sign off on as being compliant, and we have the evaluation software on our webpage <http://www.newsvhf.com> anyway, if you're not sure. If successful, you'll see a confirmation page. Note this is the ONLY way you can renew right now because of the government mail scare. You can only renew anytime between 0 and 90 days of expiration on the ULS page. Anyway this is the fastest and easiest thing I've ever done with the FCC, it looks like they finally got their act together and deserve a kudos! -73, Ron WZ1V

ARRL Recieves Threat

An inflammatory letter sent to the American Radio Relay League headquarters brought in the state police emergency services unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), officials said.

Contained in the daily load of mail employees of the Newington-based radio operators' association picked up at the post office Wednesday morning was a letter, the text of which threatened government officials and implied a coming anthrax attack, Newington police Lt. Stephen Clark said.

Despite the threats, officials said no foreign substances were found in the envelope. Postal inspector Hal Stevens said precautionary tests of the letter at the state lab in Meriden came up negative for anthrax. (This was the latest information as of press time Wednesday night.) With the negative result, officials said there's no need to test the two ARRL employees who handled the day's mail, nor the postal workers who may have come into contact with the letter.

Looks like we're not immune to the Crazies. Ed

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.: Rob Leiden, KR2L (bleiden1@nycap.RR.com) 399-9343
- VPres.: Brian Macherone, AB2IU (ab2iu@arrl.net) 374-4199
- Sec.: Jay Freud, K2QNU (SFreud7777@aol.com)
- Treas.: George Williams, W2CSN (williamg@tardis.union.edu) 377-6188
- Dirs: Manny Shulman, AA2TT (eshulman@nycap.RR.com)
- Tim Long, W2UI (WB2SPN) (longt@empireone.net) 399-7454
- Paul Siemers, WY2F (siemers@crd.ge.com) 371-0215
- Bob Raffaele, W2XM (w2xm@arrl.net) 459-8435

Committees:

- SARA News: Phil Bradway KB2HQ (kb2hq@nycap.RR.com)
 - PIO: Manny Shulman, AA2TT (eshulman@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)
 - Pub. Ser.: Ken Clikeman AA2CW (kclikema@nycap.RR.com) 861-6825
 - VE team: Bill Mischler, KG2AC
- VE registration: (518)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, 2002

SK

Herb Gawronski, KB2BB, passed away Friday, Nov. 9, at Albany Medical Center Hospital. He was 92. His funeral, with full military honors, was held in Watervliet. Herb was a stalwart on the Sunday nets for many years, although he was not active in ham radio of late. Our sympathy to the family.

Murray, Daniel B. Jr. SAN DIEGO, CA — Daniel B. Murray Jr., died in San Diego, CA on October 18, 2001, after a long illness. He was 50 years old. He was the son of long time SARA member, Dan Murray, W2PKY (SK) and the brother of Bill Murray, KA2QKN.

SARA web site

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

Get the latest on SARA activities



Make a donation. Help save our frequencies and get a gift. See <arrl.org> for details.

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



December, 2001



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