



SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

February, 2002

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, February 4 2002 at 7:30 PM, Olin Hall, Union College

Public Service

OOPS Department

Ken, AA2CW, just informed me that Sue, KC2IBI, was left off from the list of amateur operators helping in the the Christmas Parade. Sorry, Sue! Public service is very important to SARA and the community. Be assured, when you take part in these events, IT IS APPRECIATED!

Winter is a good time to check your public service gear. Got extra GOOD batteries? Check out that speaker mike and/or ear phone, too. It's far to easy too assume everything works.



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NASA's Search for Life Elsewhere in the Universe: An Update

February's speaker will be John Delano, who generally categorizes his subject as "Astrobiology."

John has a Ph.D. in geochemistry from SUNY Stony Brook, is a Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at SUNY Albany, is Associate Director of the New York Center for Studies on the Origin of Life (a NASA-funded center in collaboration with RPI, SUNY Albany, and College of St. Rose). Professor Delano has published about 50 articles in the professional scientific literature, is a Principal Investigator in NASA's Exobiology Program, and has been a scientific consultant to NASA on 4 panels.

A lot of interest has been generated by the subject of extraterrestrial life. The SETI program is using radio telescopes in the hope that "others" are as noisy as we are in the radio spectrum and Nova's "Death Star Chronicles" also touched on the subject.

This program promises to be extremely interesting and should not be missed.

Please come and join us for a pleasant evening.

From the Board

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 3, 2002

Present at the meeting held at Olin Hall Union College were: Tim Long, W2UI; Brian Macherone, AB2IU; Paul Siemers, WY2F; Bob Raffaele, W2XM; George Williams, W2CSN; Rob Leiden, KR2L.; Jay Freud, K2QNU and Dan Whelan, W2UD.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as published in the SARA Newsletter. The treasurer's report was given, reviewed and accepted.

New members from the amateur radio class were accepted as members. SARA is proud to announce the following new members: Dan Albertine, KC2IXK; Tom Digman, KC2IXL; Dave Foster; KC2IXU; Bob Greenman; KC2IXM; Mathew Haker, KC2IXN; Patricia Hunter, KC2IXO; Carolyn Kuziomko, KC2IXP; Joe Marotta, KC2IXQ; Dan Mezzanini, KC2IXR; Bob Racette, KC2IXS and Charles Roy, KC2IXT.

Silent Key Bob Beach. The SARA Board of Directors sent a condolence card to the Beach family.

Rob asked Jay to bring hot coffee to the meeting as it is winter. He did. The board voted to advance \$50.

Brian let us know that the meeting for January would be PSK31 sound card follies. Up coming meetings will include: National Weather Service and Rosalie White of the ARRL. June will be the Annual Meeting with elections and field day preparations.

Rob let us know that it is again time to look for this years field day chairman, this years nominations committee chairman and this years Broughton Award chairman. It is protocol the the SARA president appoint a nominations committee chairman and this person form a committee. It is protocol that last years Broughton Award winner chair this committee. Rob was the Brooughton Award winner last year. The board is looking for people to volunteer for these committees.

The key to the safety deposit box has been held for many years by John Dumbleski, N2OJY. The SARA Board voted to ask John to turn over guardianship of the key to George Williams, W2CSN. A special thanks you to John.

The Trading Post

FOR SALE
OR TRADE

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

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 cabinet 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.

2002 VHF/UHF Contests

January 1-December 31 - Millennial Cumulative
Microwave Contest

June 8-10, 1800Z - 0300Z - ARRL June VHF QSO Party

August 3-4, 1800Z - 1800Z - ARRL UHF Contest

August 17-18, 8AM - 8PM - ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative
Contest

September 14-16, 1800Z - 0300Z - ARRL September VHF
QSO Party

September 21-22, 8AM-8PM - ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative
Contest

Dan Whelan announced a talk about amateur radio to take place at the Empire State Aerospace Museum on February 14 at 7:00 PM. For in formation call 377-2191. WB2WHD is now W2UD.

Tim, W2UI, let us know that the generator need s work and that he would like to speak to KB2KXC, have him give estimates for costs and necessary repairs.

The meeting began at 7:00 PM and ended at 8:20 PM.
Jay Freud, K2QNU, Secretary, .

ARRL/FCC/NYS

ARLB005 FCC invites petition comments

The FCC is seeking comments on four Amateur Radio rule making petitions filed recently and put on public notice this week. Comments are due by February 7, 2002, in petitions seeking to legally separate wideband and narrowband modes on 160 meters, allow hams to bequeath their call signs "in memoriam" to a specific club, expand HF operating privileges for Novice and Tech Plus operators, and permit retransmission on amateur frequencies of NASA manned spacecraft communications.

A proposal from veteran Top Band operators and contesters Bill Tippett, W4ZV, and Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, asks the FCC to subdivide 160 meters into mode-specific subbands. The petition, submitted to the FCC in September, has been designated as RM-10352. Tippett and Briggs contend that the ARRL band plan for 160 meters—modified last year after lengthy consideration by the ad hoc ARRL 160-Meter Band Plan Committee on which both men sat—does not go far enough and is unenforceable. They want the FCC to prohibit SSB, AM and other wideband modes below 1.843 MHz, as the ARRL band plan recommends.

Tippett and Briggs said that while the topic of their petition did arise during the ARRL committee's deliberations, their petition is an independent effort with no connection to the committee or the ARRL.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association has asked the FCC to change its amateur vanity call sign system rules to permit individual amateurs to, in effect, will a call sign to a designated club as an "in memoriam" call sign. The FCC has designated the petition, submitted in December, as RM-10353. The QCWA notes that the current vanity rule "excludes current licensees from speaking for themselves" while they're still alive and "requires their relatives to speak for them post mortem."

Novice licensee John S. Rippey, W3ULS, has petitioned the FCC to expand HF phone and CW privileges for Novice operators. The FCC has designated the petition, submitted in December, as RM-10354. Rippey held a General ticket in the 1950s and 1960s and obtained his former call sign after relicensing as a Novice in 1999. Rippey has asked the FCC to grant Novice and Technician (with Element 1 credit) licensees new or expanded operating privileges on 80, 40, 30, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. His suggestions include SSB privileges for Novices and Tech Plus licensees on 17 and 12 meters.

The NASA John H. Glenn Research Center Amateur Radio Club is seeking a modification in wording to the Part 97 rule that already permits amateur retransmission of NASA manned shuttle communications. The petition has been designated as RM-10355. The club wants the Amateur Service rule, Sec 97.113(e), to include International Space Station communications as well as any manned spacecraft in the future.

Interested parties may comment on any or all of these petitions via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System, <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

ARLB004 FCC Acts on October 15, 2001, Vanity Applications

The vanity call sign logjam has begun to break up. The FCC granted 27 vanity call signs January 9, based on applications received October 15, 2001. FCC policy gives paper and electronically filed vanity applications equal priority. Mail problems due to the recent anthrax scare caused some applications filed on paper to be delayed, and vanity processing has been on hold since last fall. FCC Licensing Branch personnel have been attempting to obtain new paperwork from applicants, however. All submittals will be processed in chronological order.

FCC RETAINS AMATEUR RADIO'S 219-220 MHZ SLOT

Amateur Radio's secondary allocation at 219-220 MHz remains intact in the wake of an FCC spectrum reallocation of the 216 to 220-MHz band, among others. The FCC declined, however, to go along with ARRL's request to expand amateur access to 216 to 220 MHz. On a brighter note, the Commission potentially relieved spectrum competition for Amateur Radio at 2.3 GHz by making space available elsewhere.

"We are pleased that the FCC has found suitable spectrum for MicroTrax and AeroAstro other than at 2300-2305 MHz," ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, referring to two commercial competitors. "We hope this will clear the way for an upgrade to primary status at 2300-2305 MHz for the Amateur Service."

Sumner was less enthusiastic about the FCC's action at 216-220 MHz as it impacts the Amateur Service. "While the limited secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 219-220 MHz is being maintained, the more intensive use of 216-220 MHz by commercial services is likely to preclude amateur use of the band in many parts of the country," he commented.

The amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1 MHz of spectrum, Amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message-forwarding systems, but only under strict limitations that require coordination with and sometimes approval by AMTS licensees. The ARRL had hoped to expand opportunities for point-to-point digital messaging systems, but the FCC said amateurs already have access to other bands for that purpose and denied the request.

NYS PRB-1 Legislation

The bill is in the Government Affairs Committee of the Assembly and will be reported out as is, within two weeks. Our bill should be back in the Rules Committee shortly, which is where it remained at the end of last years legislative session. Meetings are being arranged with Speaker Sheldon Silver to urge him to report the bill out of the Rules Committee which he controls. There is a parallel effort going on the Senate side. We all need to make a concerted effort to lobby for these bills.

SK**Robert E. Beach WB2WRX – Silent Key**

Another of our well-known Schenectady hams has passed on, leaving behind a record of service to country and community. Bob chose to channel his ham radio activities into MARS, the Military Affiliate Radio System. His leadership will be missed.

Bob helped with the changes of mission priority in the later years of MARS. Originally formed as a source to train soldiers in the then new technology of radio, by the time of the Viet Nam conflict it had a strong mission to furnish morale building communications between the people of our armed forces and their families at home. Bob was an enthusiastic participant in this activity. Now, as the mission emphasis is swinging towards emergency and disaster communications support Bob had talked with us in RACES about cooperative needs. We have had an empty spot there since the passing of Paul Mataruga WB2MCO.

Our sympathies are extended to his daughter Debbie N2XXW and all the family.

Return of CQ VHF

CQ VHF to return as a quarterly: CQ VHF will resume publication this spring as a quarterly magazine, publisher Richard Ross announced today. The magazine ceased publication in 1999. Longtime CQ magazine "VHF-Plus" Editor Joe Lynch, N6CL, will be editor of the new quarterly. The first issue is due out in May. In announcing the publication's return, CQ Communications noted that the "overwhelming majority" of US hams have license privileges that primarily permit operation above 50 MHz. "However, the prime focus of the current ham magazines remains HF." A subscription will be \$25 per year in the US.

*It is easy to sit up and take notice.
What is difficult is getting up
and taking action.*

Al Batt

OP-ED

XYL, KA2AME says "He even takes a break to eat a REAL dinner, but first he must get rid of all that coffee and go through a whole series of "#%\$@^&\$#@"+(*&." The other "rule" is that at least one radio will go down (see his last paragraph). ---> Yes, it's FUN!

**From the Editor's Shack****Contesting - why?**

Unless you're really into contesting, it's easy to ask the question, why. In the past, I've done my share of burning RF holes in the Ozone in Sweepstakes, the various DX 'tests and lately, in VHF/UHF events. What's the purpose, you ask?

Some say it provides a test of how much coffee you can drink (and hold), how fast you can spin your VFO, how long you can stay awake and how well you can sublimate frustration. All true, but there is a serious side to contesting, too. There is no better way of finding out just how well your station operates and stays together. You also learn operating practices such as listening for stations in the noise or under the big gun station just 2 KHz away. Picking out multiple stations on the same frequency is a challenge, too. In emergency situations, those may be just the skills you need!

Watching the changes in propagation can be fun on HF. Knowing what bands are usable to a particular area of the globe is a useful tool. Propagation on the VHF bands can be positively amazing! The recent VHF contest is a good case in point. Before the contest started, there was a 6 meter opening into the UK. Scotland, Ireland and England were booming in with S9 signals—then someone threw the switch! The contest opened to a dead band. One station in Iceland did pop in the next day, though. Such a pileup! For an hour on Sunday 6 opened to the West Coast. Oregon, California and Nevada were suddenly on my list of states worked. Minor enhancements occur, too. That's how we can work Delaware. West Virginia and Western New York.

I mentioned something about the gear staying together earlier. Somehow, when working with VHF and above, it's more difficult to keep everything running. Anybody want to buy a slightly used GaAs FET for a 222 preamp? How about a 2 meter FM rig that suddenly stopped keying up? Lots of goodies left over after this contest.

The bottom line on contesting is really easy to define.

It's FUN!



Public Service

By Dave Mello, WIDGM, ARRL
Web Editor

As recent events have underscored, most of us don't need to be reminded that Amateur Radio operators are in a unique position to provide emergency communications. Hams donate tens of thousands of hours each year providing communications in actual civil emergencies, drills, parades and marathons. The Public Service branch of ARRL Field and Educational Services coordinates the efforts of the hams who actually perform the services.

A primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service, as established by the Federal Communications Commission, is the rendering of public service communication for the general public, particularly in times of emergency. Hams responded immediately to the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, for instance.

It is significant that Part 97 of the FCC's Rules and

Regulations states, as the first principle under "Basis and Purpose":

"Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

The ARRL has been serving the public, both directly and through government and relief agencies almost since its inception. To that end the League created the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the National Traffic System. ARES and NTS are the League's implementation of the FCC's basic principle.



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
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Paul Siemers, WY2F (siemers@crd.ge.com) 371-0215
Bob Raffaele, W2XM (w2xm@arrl.net) 459-8435

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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

Broughton Scholarship

Hams who are potential college students have an opportunity to qualify for The Henry Broughton, K2AE Memorial Scholarship. Apparently, last year, no one within the 70 mile limit applied. Following are the parameters as published by the ARRL Foundation, the administrator of the scholarship.

Name: The Henry Broughton, K2AE Memorial Scholarship
Award Amount: \$1000. Number of Awards: One per year; multiple, as income permits. Minimum License Class: General Class. Regional Preference: Home residence within 70 miles of Schenectady, New York. Curricular Preference: Baccalaureate course of study in engineering, sciences, or similar. Institution: Accredited 4-year college or university. Other: None.

If you know of someone that could meet the qualifications, urge them to apply. It might even be a carrot in getting some young folks into ham radio. The rules don't say how long you were a General Class, only that you hold the license.

SARA web site

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

February, 2002



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