



SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

March, 2002

K2AE Repeaters

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

Public Service

Weather Hazards Awareness Week will be on March 17 - 23, 2002. As part of this weeks activities there will be two communications drills, one on Tuesday March 19 th and one on Thursday March 21st.

Area hams, especially those involved in Skywarn, are asked to mark their calendars for these dates and plan to participate in the drills.

Look for further info as we approach these dates.

Raleigh, K2RI

The Sunday ARES -RACES net on the 224.06 repeater will be discontinued until the repeater is back in service. This net met at 1315 hours on Sunday afternoon.

The repeater antenna system was damaged as a result of the high winds last week.

I will let everyone know when the net is restarted. In the meantime, check in to the 444.200 net at 1300 hours and the 147.060 net at 1330 hours.

Raleigh, K2RI

Note: the 444.20 repeater was off the air for a time for tune-up. This was not related to the wind storm. Much thanks to Scot, N2YCA, for his work on repeater maintenance.

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ARRL and ENY Section News

Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, ARRL Eastern NY Section manager, will speak about section news and other current League business. Much is happening over Newington way. There's the continuing education programs, legislative matters, FCC negotiations and the Novice bands re-farming issue for starters.

Eastern New York Section activities aren't quite as evident in this area as they were with a SM in our back yard. Pete's visit is a great way to "get up to speed" on the various doings.

There will be a 50/50 raffle with door prizes and, yes, the coffee pot will be on!

Come and join us for a pleasant and informative get together with your ham radio cohorts.



From the ENY Web Site

- 1 Albany County
- 2 Columbia County
- 3 Dutchess County
- 4 Greene County
- 5 Orange County
- 6 Putnam County
- 7 Rensselaer County
- 8 Rockland County
- 9 Saratoga County
- 10 Schenectady County
- 11 Sullivan County
- 12 Ulster County
- 13 Warren County
- 14 Washington County
- 15 Westchester County

From the Board

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

SARA BOARD MEETING, 5 FEBRUARY

The Board meetings for the club are generally held on the Thursday before the meeting. In order to accommodate all members this month the meeting was held after the general meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and was adjourned at 8:08 PM. Those present for the meeting were: Paul Siemers - WY2F, Brian Macherone - AB2IU, Tim Long - W2UI, Raleigh Keeter - K2RI, Bob Raffael - W2XM, George Williams - W2CSN, Bill Patmos - W2DHT, Jay Freud - K2QNU, John Dombleski - N2OJY and Peter Rea - W2PR.

The Treasurer's Report was given and George let us know that membership is down, a CD deposit has matured, and that the bills have been paid. He will also put the Broughton CD money into the Schwab Account.

The Board of Directors wishes to THANK our SARA News editor for his many years of service to the club. Phil Bradway has been a guiding light for us, a tough act to follow. No one member has inspired so many new people to amateur radio as has Phil. SARA will be looking for a SARA News Editor to begin with the September issue.

The next meeting will be on the first Monday of the month as usual. The Speaker will be announced in SARA news.

The Broughton Award Committee has been appointed. They are: Rob Leiden, Dan Whelan, and Tim Long.

The Election Committee has been appointed. The members are: Ray Wemple, Bill Patmos, and Bill Schwarting.

The Field Day Committee still needs a Chairman to work with the existing Field Day committees.

Jay is the new Contest Chairman. K2QNU will be talking about contesting on the low bands and the uhf/vhf bands on the Sunday RACES Nets, writing articles for the SARA newsletters about contesting and making everyone aware of the various contests that are taking place. Contesting builds good operating skills.

Raleigh is to "set up a plan" so as to more fully advertise the Broughton Scholarship that the ARRL Foundation administers. This will include providing documents to area high schools and colleges, too, as the award is not limited to freshman. The Subcommittee will include John Dombleski and Rob Leiden.

A look at new meeting locations was once again the topic. The SARA Board will be looking at possible locations.

Boosting membership "we have missed you, where have you been?" Tim Long, Rob Leiden, and John Dombleski will work on this as a mailing. The idea is to give membership a shot in the arm.

Repeaters- the 220 machine is down, as the transmit antenna blew away in a high wind.

Jay Freud, K2QNU, Secretary

ARRL/FCC/NYS

ARLB013 ARRL asks FCC to drop RFID rules proposed for 425-435 MHz

The ARRL says the FCC "cannot legally proceed with the rules proposed for unlicensed RFID tags at 433 MHz," and it's asked the Commission to not adopt them. The League filed comments February 12 as part of its continued opposition to what it called "this ill-conceived proposal" of SAVI Technology to deploy unlicensed transient RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz at much higher field strengths and duty cycles than Part 15 rules now permit for such devices. The FCC appears inclined to agree with SAVI's proposal, but FCC staff members have told the ARRL that it's not a "done deal."

"The level of interference from the devices permitted under the proposed rule is intolerable," the ARRL argued, citing its own interference study. The League reiterated its stance that the Communications Act of 1934 "is devoid of any authority to allow unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential; such devices must be licensed."

SAVI, the ARRL argues in its comments, "wants to have its cake and eat it too" by getting high power levels and lengthy duty cycles operating on a band heavily used by a licensed radio service that uses sensitive receivers "and all of the above on an unlicensed basis." Among other applications, RFID tags are used to track and inventory parcel shipments and vehicles.

The ARRL said the FCC's inclination to go along with SAVI Technology's proposal "eviscerates the periodic radiator rules, is vague and overbroad," and would permit digital RFIDs to operate "at unsuitable power levels and duty cycles." The result would be unacceptable interference that would "preclude or repeatedly disrupt amateur operation," the ARRL said.

Given the global direction in this technology, the ARRL pointed out, deploying the proposed RFID tags elsewhere would make much better sense. "SAVI should seriously consider the frequencies around 868 or 915 MHz, which apparently stand at least some reasonable chance of global standardization,"

The ARRL has said it will "do whatever it takes" to keep the FCC from permitting the RFID tags on 70 cm. That could include further direct appeals to FCC staffers, Imlay has said.

ARLB014 Amateur Radio volunteers support Olympics

Amateur Radio volunteers are supporting the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, assisting with security and remaining available to provide back-up communication.

"The amateurs involved have assisted numerous local and

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Registering With the FCC

The FCC says only a small minority of the Amateur Radio population has registered in the FCC's Universal Licensing System, which was deployed for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999. If you're unregistered because you're not sure how to register, here's a ULS primer for those registering on-line.

In response to requests from the amateur community for simplified, yet detailed, steps to register for the ULS, the ARRL offers the following procedure for individual Amateur Radio licensees:

1. Start Netscape Communicator ver 4.5 or later. (Other browsers may work, but the ULS supports only Netscape.)
2. Go to the Universal Licensing System home page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>
3. Click "TIN/Call Sign Registration" on the main ULS screen.
4. On the next screen, check "Register Now" and click "Continue".
5. On the next screen, check "An Individual" and click "Continue".
6. You should now be at the Form 606 screen, identified in tiny print on the upper left. Complete only the "Licensee Information" part of the form—the top part. You do not need to complete "Contact Information." You also do not need to be concerned with something called "SGIN" that you might encounter.
7. The "Taxpayer Identification Number" or "TIN" is your Social Security Number. Enter your SSN without any hyphens or spaces (ie, 123456789).
8. Complete your name and address information. First name, middle initial, last name, and any "Suffix" such as "Sr", "Jr", or "II", as appropriate. You may provide a PO Box address, a street address, or both. You must include a ZIP code. The system will detect if the ZIP code does not match the state provided.
9. Form 606 still requires you to put something in the telephone number field, even though the FCC has said that a telephone number is not now required of amateurs and that it will not make telephone numbers public. If you do not wish to give the FCC your telephone number, you can fill this field with zeros or with your area code plus 555-1212. A fax number is not required. The FCC does not require an e-mail address, so if you prefer not to provide it, leave that field blank.
10. Once you've provided all the "Licensee Information" scroll down to the bottom of the screen.
11. At the bottom of the screen you must pick a password of at least five characters. We recommend that you do not use your call sign for this. Enter your new password in the "New Password" field. The characters you type will be displayed as asterisks (*) on the screen, so type carefully.
12. Verify the password you've selected by entering it again in the "Verify Password" field. Again, the characters you type will be displayed as asterisks (*) on the screen.
13. Type in a personal identifier in the next field. The FCC suggests using your mother's maiden name, but any word or name you prefer will suffice, provided it fits the field.
14. If you click "Notice to Individuals" it will tell you that everything but your Social Security Number will be available for public inspection. The FCC has told the ARRL that it will not make telephone numbers or e-mail addresses public. We have no reason to date to believe that this has not been the case.
15. Once you're happy with your choices, click "Submit".
16. If you leave out anything or make an error, the ULS will list "Error(s)" when you attempt to submit the form. If this happens, go back and correct the errors identified and click "Submit" again.
17. Once you have the form correctly completed, you'll be asked to submit your call sign(s). Click "Enter Call Signs" and follow the directions. If you are not yet licensed (you don't have a call sign yet) you can click "Continue" without entering a call sign.
18. You should now be on the screen that requests you to enter your call sign(s). Enter your individual Amateur Radio call sign in the first space provided. If you are a club station trustee, you may enter your club station call signs, but this is not necessary. The FCC requires a separate registration and an Assigned TIN for club stations. Skip this if you have no call yet.
19. Once your call sign(s) are entered, click "Submit" at the bottom of the form.

You now should be registered in the ULS. Your screen should display a form that shows your "Licensee Information" as well as Licensee ID Number, personal identifier and password. It's a good idea to print this screen and keep a copy in your files for safekeeping (primarily in case you forget your password).

That's it. You're done! You're now registered in the Universal Licensing System. ULS registration is required before amateurs can transact business (ie, file applications, renewals, vanity call sign requests, address changes, etc) with the FCC.

—Rick Lindquist, N1RL, with assistance from Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

Continued from page 2

federal agencies to develop a unique system that covers the entire Wasatch Front Area, providing communications to reach numerous Olympic venues 24 hours a day," said Utah ARRL Section Manager Mel Parkes, AC7CP. "Amateur Radio will be there should any of the primary frequencies fail or become unavailable."

According to Parkes, Utah Section Emergency Coordinator John Mabey, W7CWX, and Brent Thomas, AC7H, of the State of Utah Comprehensive Management Office began working on this effort more than a year ago. A special public safety organization—Utah Olympic Public Safety Command (UOPSC) was created by the various local and national public safety organizations that provide the security necessary for the international event. Mabey, along with Davis County EC Hall Blankenship, KC7RAF; Kirk Boman, KD0J; Ed Cole, KB7EC; and Mike Youngs, KK7VZ, headed up the Amateur Radio effort to provide emergency backup communication for the Olympic Security Command.

Parkes said UOPSC has now involved more than 200 Amateur Radio volunteers in Utah to support critical security. In addition Amateur Radio volunteers are staffing a number of Olympic Security Command centers assisting local and national public safety organizations.

"The hard work and dedication by all these dedicated Amateur Radio Operators will certainly contribute to a very successful and safe Olympic Winter Games," Parkes said.

NEWINGTON, CT, Jun 21, 2001—Never say that FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth lacks creative flair in applying enforcement sanctions. Acting in two ongoing cases, Hollingsworth this month notified two Technician licensees that they must stay off all repeaters on the 144, 222, or 440-MHz bands for the next three years.

Hollingsworth invoked §97.27 of the FCC's Amateur Service rules to modify the licenses of Ted R. Sorensen III, KC6PQW, of Agoura Hills, California, and Joseph Mattern, KG4NGG, of Orlando, Florida. Both licensees have been the subject of repeater-related enforcement inquiries.

Sorensen's restriction was among other actions recently taken in conjunction with the Los Angeles-area W6NUT repeater. In February, the FCC asked Sorensen and Gregory S. Cook, ex-KC6USO, of Chico, California, to respond to allegations that they conspired in making late-night one-way transmissions on W6NUT that originated from Sorensen's station.

In March the FCC accepted Cook's voluntarily surrendered license. For his part, Sorensen, who did not dispute the allegations, wrote the FCC offering to accept a year's banishment from the W6NUT 147.435 repeater "as fair punishment." Instead, the Commission imposed a ban on the use of all repeaters on the three most popular repeater bands for the next three years.



de KB2HQ

From the Editor's Shack

DSS Dreary Shack Syndrome

When you have visitors to your amateur radio "shack," what can you show them about your hobby? Your rig, a mess of wires and cables and perhaps four blank walls in the cellar or attic is often the case. How about some wallpaper? Colorful QSL cards and fancy certificates can go a long way in brightening things up!

Paper chasing has long been a part of ham radio and most of us that have been around a while have at least some thing on the wall, if only a framed license. Special Events are a good source, especially on the HF bands. There are some of these events on the FM band also, sponsored by local clubs. We've mentioned a few Special Events in this issue of SARA News but there are a lot more out there. Check out the listings in QST and CQ each month for leads.

There's 10-10 international, too. Groups all over the world have nets and offer recognition for making a certain number of contacts with their members. We had a chapter (Electric City) in this area a number of years ago and it was a lot of fun. Unfortunately, the 10 meter band died and the chapter's sparkplugs relocated to other areas of the country.



Certificates of accomplishment are also available. The ARRL offers this Extra certificate and others relating to training or of holding appointment as League volunteers. The ARRL Life Member plaque is really nice, too. Check out the arrl.org web site for further information on these and others.

What does it all mean? It means that you have interest in your hobby and wish to show the world that you have made a commitment in time and effort and enjoy the wonderful world of amateur radio.

Besides, that corner of the cellar looks pretty good now.

*The job isn't over until
the paperwork is done,
even in ham radio
...Anonymous*

Special Events

MF - Activity - Weekend 2002

The MF-Runde (German Navy group) will arrange the MF-Activity Weekend Year 2001 on 1st June 2002 (CW) and 2nd June 2002 (SSB) : 09:00 - 13:00 and 15:00 - 18:00 h (LT)

Special MF-QSLs are available! CW: 3.565, 7.025, 14.052, 21.052, 28.052. SSB: 3.625, 7.060, 14.335, 21.360, 28.935.

“The Submarines On The Air” is scheduled for the Ham Bands on April 27 & 28. For kicks, visit the USS Salem’s Radio Club Web site and see the list of ships that participate in the special event “Museum Ships On The Air” on the weekend of July 20 and 21. For information, see <<http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html>>. You might want to check out the following for Navy/ ham radio events: <www.usssalem.org> and <www.ussslater.org>.

And, for the landlubbers.....

Winter Olympics special event: The West Desert Ama-

The Trading Post



No action this 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.

teur Radio Club will sponsor special event station W7U to commemorate the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. W7U will be on the air from February 8 until February 24. Look for W7U on or around 3.768, 14.250, 21.300 and 28.400 MHz. QSL to W7EO, PO Box 98, Grantsville, UT 84029.

Wasilla, AK: Matanuska ARS KL7JFU 2100Z 3/2 - 3/13. Celebrating the 30th Iditirod Dog Sled Race. 28.460, 21.315, 14.246 & 7.290. QSL to NL7NF.

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

Electronic QSL Cards

Apparently, ARRL is now accepting electronic QSLs for awards, at least under some conditions. One of the ham radio news groups has had a long thread on the subject, debating the pros and cons and, of course, some alleging a great plot of some sort or another.

It is interesting, though. I registered a year ago, found a card that was sent to me and promptly forgot the whole thing. I just checked back in and found 20 eQSLs in my in box! One went back to 1990 and the latest was from the January, 2002, VHF contest. My, how the concept has grown!

If you have been on the air, check <<http://www.eqsl.cc/qslcard>> and see what you find. It's free, too.

For an oversight of eQSLing check <<http://www.ab7sl.com>> and click on electronic QSL. There are some other interesting things on the page, too.

ARRL is working on a plan of its own which should eventually let us dump all those International Reply Coupons and bypass those few greedy QSL managers. de KB2HQ

SARA web site

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

March, 2002



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