



# SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

April, 2002

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, April 1, 2002 at 7:30 PM, Olin Hall, Union College

## Public Service

Up coming Public Service Events

Crop Walk May 5 12:30 PM

Scotia Parade May 22 5:30 PM

For information and to volunteer, contact Ken, AA2CW, at 861-6825 or on one of the Sunday nets.

## RACES Drill

The United States will probably experience more attacks by terrorists according to the information given us by our government. Will those of us in the amateur radio community be ready?

In order to be better prepared, RACES - ARES will hold a drill on Sunday April 7, 2002 starting about 13:00 hours local time in the period occupied by the Sunday RACES - ARES nets.

The simulated emergency will be a power system failure leaving eastern New York without electric power. The power failure will cause the loss of a number of telephone switching centers and cell towers resulting in overload and blocking of the remaining land line and wireless phone systems. The power failure will last 48 to 72 hours according to estimates. It is in the middle of winter and the forecast is for daytime high temperatures to be about 30 degrees F, night time lows about 5 degrees F, and with possible snow showers and flurries.

Think about what such a situation would mean to you

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## Skywarn Training Severe Weather

The April meeting will give a long overdue (at least for some of us) opportunity to obtain Skywarn training.

This is a long program, 2 hours or more, so it will start **promptly** at 7:30. Dick Westergard, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, will be giving the session.

SKYWARN is a plan sponsored by the National Weather Service/NWS using volunteer weather observers for reporting hazardous weather. Amateur radio operators and weather observers, generally operating through local organizations, are ideally equipped to contribute to the SKYWARN program. However, this program is open to the general public. Volunteers will be taught to recognize features associated with rapidly developing, mature, and dissipating thunderstorms which cause hazardous weather. They will assist NWS staff in issuing warnings to save lives and minimize damage to property.

You may have been through the session in the past, but recertification is needed periodically, 2 years? If you haven't been lately, you're due.

**This session is open to the public.** Bring your friends, relatives, etc. to learn how dangerous weather can be recognized.

## From the Board

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

SARA Meeting Minutes - February 28, 2002

Rob Leiden called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. In attendance were: Bob Raffaele, W2XM, Tim Long, W2UI, Rob Leiden, KR2L, Brian Macherione, AB2IU and George Williams, W2CSN.

The minutes of the last board meeting as published in SARA news were read and accepted on motion of Williams seconded by Long.

George Williams, W2CSN, provided an updated treasurer's report.

There was no new correspondence to report.

The 444.2 repeater is on the air and performance has been excellent. Plans are to relocate the antenna further away from the tower to reduce the shadowing observed.

A VE session will be held on meeting night.

The newsletter was published on time. Another excellent job of editing, producing and mailing the document.

Bob Raffaele mentioned that this is the year for the Hudson Division Convention. When we see Pete Cecere, N2YJZ at Monday's meeting, we will ask him what club activities are planned and carry this back to the membership.

Brian Macherone noted that Monday night's speaker is Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, Eastern New York ARRL Section Manager. Next month we will have a Skywarn certification session hosted by Dick Westergaard of the National Weather Service. May's program will feature a speaker from the ARRL staff, still to be determined.

### Old Business

- Broughton Award Committee planning - selection of award winner (by mid-May?)
- Election Committee planning - committee assembled
- Field Day planning - need to appoint chairman

### New Business

Rob discussed the use of the new SARA trailer and tower trailer for a special event station at a park or a mall. Several specific ideas were discussed and Rob will pursue these and keep the membership informed. Special

### *RACES, continued from page 1*

and your neighbors and if your emergency radio equipment is ready.

This will be a modified "Table Top" drill. No one will be asked to go an assigned location but operators will be given "Assignments" when they check in, depending upon the equipment they have available. The emergency radio equipment will be used for the drill. There will be messages generated to be passed between the O. E. M., hospitals, nursing homes, shelters and other locations and the messages will be typical of that passed in the New York City area following the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Hams are asked to do two things to prepare for the April 7th drill. First, review your radio equipment that would be used for emergency operation, including portable radios with adequate batteries, mobile radios with power supplies and portable antennas such magnetic mounts. It is recommended that the instructions for the new, complicated portable and mobile radios be available as none of us remember how to program them especially when we are under stress.

Second, review the ARRL message format and the parts that make up the complete message. The ARRL message form may not be followed in its entirety but a date, time, the organization and responsible person in the address and the organization and name of the responsible person sending the message are necessary.

In a real emergency, but not needed for the drill, personal items, such as clothing, food, drink, medicines, flash lights, etc., should be available. And don't forget to have the car with a full gas tank.

Let's have a big turn out for the drill on April 7.

Raleigh Keeter, RO

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event callsigns are available from the ARRL if we decide we need one.

Tim made a motion that we letter the sides of the new trailer with appropriate markings. N2LBT has researched the best way to do this and the proposal by Tim was seconded by George and agreed to unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by George at 8:00 P.M.

Rob Leiden, President (Secretary pro tem)

## ARRL/FCC/NYS

### From the Hudson Division Beacon

By Frank Fallon, N2FF

#### NEW YORK TOWER BILL STATUS

As you may be aware there are now 15 states with tower laws. We would certainly like to see New York shortly join that select group. There has been no movement on our bill in the last month. We have been requested by some of the senate sponsors to show them pictures of what the structures we have been talking about look like. If you have any pictures of the typical support structure of about 50 to 60 feet with a tri-bander on it please send it as an e-mail attachment or mail it to: Frank Fallon, 30 East Williston Avenue, East Williston, NY 11596 <n2ff@arrl.org>. We find that while it is easy to get pictures of contest type antenna farm stations with a stack 150 feet in the air, it is not easy to come up with the typical modest suburban station that is well screened.

#### NEW ROCHELLE

We realized recently that we failed to report our success in negotiations with the City of New Rochelle concerning ordinance revisions. I attribute our success to the fact that Gerry Agliata, W2GLA and Mike Arrow, K2NR, spotted this problem last May and we were able to meet with town officials EARLY - before they had public hearings. As the result of four meetings with town officials and one with the mayor we were able to convince them to leave the height at 75 feet. The setback from the property line must be at least half the height of the tower. The town had wanted a 100 percent setback, which would have made it impossible for most hams to erect a tower. We warned the town that this would lead to all future amateur antennas being placed on the roof in New Rochelle. Once the councilwoman we were dealing with saw a few of these installations she was convinced that she did not want to encourage roof antennas. We let the town know that they needed to encourage crank up towers and for that reason they should increase the antenna base size so as to encourage crank up or nesting towers which need to have a larger base than guyed towers. Fortunately they saw the wisdom of this idea and the final ordinance allows a four foot by four foot base for retractable towers and

three feet six inches for stationary or permanent towers.

#### KINDERHOOK

In Fred's own words: "And it drags on..... Last month the ZBA held their workshop session which was for them to discuss my application in preparation for a vote. I am being generous by saying it was entertaining. One ZBA member stated that I should be required to plant 75 foot trees or trees that will grow that high in two years. This will give you a flavor for how the entire meeting went. Monday March 25, 2002 at 6:45 PM will be another "hearing". The ZBA indicated a decision would most likely be forthcoming that night, however. Let's see.

Stay tuned. If anyone knows where I can get 75 foot trees please let me know. I will be looking for them at the first hamfest! "

Fred, WA2MMX

#### ARLB017 Vanity processing to resume

The FCC now has all outstanding vanity applications initially filed last October in hand and is ready to resume routine vanity call sign processing, a spokesperson said. Until this week, a single missing vanity application had been holding up a backlog of more than 2000 vanity applications.

"With the help of ARRL, the problem has been resolved, and we will begin processing vanity applications this week," an FCC spokesperson at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office said today. "So as not to overload the system, we will run batches of applications daily until amateur vanity processing is again up to date."

At the core of the problem were some two weeks' worth of October paper vanity applications sent from Gettysburg to Washington, DC, last fall for anthrax decontamination that never made it back to Gettysburg. FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau personnel at Gettysburg were successful in using information gleaned from payment receipts to contact most of the known paper filers via e-mail or telephone to have them resubmit copies of their vanity applications.

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*ARRL/FCC, continued from page 3*

As a result, a few vanity call signs have trickled out of Gettysburg in recent weeks. On February 27 and 28, the FCC processed a total of 74 vanity applications received last October 23-26. Prior to last week, no amateur vanity call signs had been granted since February 1, and until late January, no vanity call signs had been issued since October 30.

Although most vanity applications are filed electronically, the FCC's policy is to give equal processing weight to paper and electronic applications.

### RADIO LOCAL AREA NETWORK SPECTRUM PETITION "FATALLY FLAWED," ARRL SAYS

The ARRL says a petition from the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance (WECA) for additional 5-GHz spectrum is "fatally flawed." WECA, an industry coalition, wants more room for radio local area network (RLAN) systems and other unlicensed Part 15 devices. It's seeking to extend the available 5-GHz spectrum to include 5.470 to 5.725 GHz. The Amateur Service now occupies 5.650 to 5.925 GHz on a secondary basis with government and nongovernment radars and nongovernment fixed satellite uplinks. The ARRL asked the FCC to deny the petition.

In comments filed February 28, the ARRL said WECA's petition fails to establish any current need to supplement 300 MHz of 5-GHz spectrum that the FCC made available for the same purpose in 1997. The ARRL also said that WECA is asking the FCC to make a decision prior to the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03), where RLAN globalization is an issue.

WECA has told the FCC that the additional spectrum and proposed rule changes were needed to "accommodate the inevitable explosion of demand for broadband mobile wireless data systems." In its Petition, designated as RM-10371, WECA said the spectrum extension could be accomplished easily and "without harmful interference to other primary users."

The ARRL countered that the 5-GHz amateur band already has suffered enough from earlier FCC actions. In 1997, the FCC allocated 5.150 to 5.350 GHz and 5.725 to 5.825 GHz for so-called Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) wireless local area



## From the Editor's Shack More pressure coming!

We see that ham frequencies are becoming "endangered species" with each *ARRL Letter* we get. The sad thing is that we've only seen the start of the onslaught. We're fighting incursions into

the 440 band, we've lost part of 220 and the Gigahertz spectrum pressure is building rapidly.

The other evening I happened across Silicon Summit III on MSNBC. The show featured the movers and shakers in the high tech industry, well moderated by Tom Brokaw. Among the many points raised was the prediction of an explosion of inexpensive wireless devices to provide access to the internet, especially among the lower socioeconomic classes. Guess where these things will operate? Near, around or in our frequency allocations is the logical spot.

The only folks that seem to care is the ARRL—and they sure are working on it! You can help by becoming a member and also by donating to the spectrum defence fund.

### **We are under attack. Fight back!**

network devices. In 1998, the Commission allocated 5.850 to 5.925 GHz for dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) systems in the Intelligent Transportation System.

The ARRL said that, while it does not dispute the utility of RLAN devices, WECA's petition "is devoid of any justification for expansion of the 300 MHz-wide U-NII band now." The League said WECA's petition "is based on pure conjecture," and said it should take its forecasts for future demand for 5-GHz unlicensed RLAN devices to the ITU for consideration at WRC-03.

For the third time in recent months, the ARRL admonished the FCC not to routinely authorize unlicensed Part 15 intentional radiators "without technical evidence allowing it to conclude that the devices so authorized will not interfere with incumbent licensed radio services." The ARRL said that since the FCC cannot conclude that granting the petition would not interfere with amateur operation at 5 GHz, "it cannot allow the marketing and deployment of unlicensed Part 15 devices without violating Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934."

**Proposal to amend the bylaws  
of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

Submitted by Jay Freud, K2QNU

This proposal is solely, to amend Article IV, Section 1 of the bylaws by deleting the words, "THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHENECTADY MUSEUM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION SHALL BE AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER, WITHOUT VOTE."

The process of amending the bylaws is addressed in:

**ARTICLE IX - SECTION II**

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a three -fourth vote of the members present, provided advance written notice has been forwarded to all members. Notice in SARA News shall be deemed sufficient notice.

In support of the amendment, Jay Freud, K2QNU, writes "I am submitting this amendment in writing to the Board of Directors of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (SARA). I am also submitting this to the SARA News Editor for publication in SARA News. I do believe that this is in the best interests of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association and its future in this new century."

**The  
Trading Post**

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OR TRADE**

Free - Many years worth of QST; Some Ham Radio, too. 1978 and 79 handbooks plus some other research material is also available. Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938.

To post an ad write: [sara@e-groups.com](mailto: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](mailto:kb2hq@nycap.RR.com).

*There's an old story about the person who wished his computer were as easy to use as his telephone. That wish has come true, since I no longer know how to use my telephone.  
...Anonymous*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bleiden1@nycap.RR.com)) 399-9343
- VPres.: Brian Macherone, AB2IU ([ab2iu@arrl.net](mailto:ab2iu@arrl.net)) 374-4199
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- Bob Raffaele, W2XM ([w2xm@arrl.net](mailto:w2xm@arrl.net)) 459-8435

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- Pub. Ser.: Ken Clikeman AA2CW ([kclikema@nycap.RR.com](mailto: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



## Contests

June 08 - 10 - ARRL June VHF QSO Party  
June 22 - 23 ARRL Field Day  
July 13 - 14 - IARU HF World Championships  
August 03 - 04 - ARRL UHF Contest  
September 14 - 16 - ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party

Start to get ready now. June is just around the corner.

**Make a donation. Help save our frequencies and get a gift. See <[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)> for details.**

### SARA web site

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

April, 2002

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Schenectady, N.Y.

SARA News  
Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Inc.  
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Albans, N.Y. 12008