



SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

June, 2002

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, June 3, 2002 at 7:30 PM, Olin Hall, Union College

Public Service

Up coming Public Service Events

Niskaday - May 18, 8:30 AM

Scotia Parade - May 22, 5:30 PM

Niskayuna Town Park - September 11

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

Crop Walk

Those in the crop walk were KB2TSA, AA2CW, K2RI, W2REG, W2JVF, W2CJO and KG2AO. SARA was mentioned in the Gazette article covering the event and a plaque for SARA's continuing support was presented to the club. de Ken, AA2CW

Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for election at the Annual Meeting:

Brian Macherone, AB2IU - President
Mildred Gittinger, KB2SWR - Vice President
George Williams, W2CSN - Treasurer
Tim Long, W2UI - Secretary

Directors:

Rob Leiden, KR2L
Paul Siemers, WY2F
Ramsay Seielstad, KC2GMW
Gerry Crawmer, KE2JJ

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Annual Meeting Broughton Award Field Day

The Annual Meeting is probably the most important meeting of the season. The stage will be set for next year with the election of new officers.

As long time members know, SARA generally conducts its business during the year at the Board of Directors meetings, leaving the regular meeting for the enjoyment of the program. Once a year, however, at the Annual Meeting, the entire club participates in the decision making process.

The Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Award presentation will be the highlight of the evening. Which deserving candidate will be the recipient this year?

The June meeting is also a great time to get fired up for Ham Radio's premier event, Field Day! There's sure to be an update on plans for the event. Looks there will be plenty of food and lots of opportunities to operate (especially if you are a CW op and like the night shift). It's a great chance to learn how to put up towers and antennas, too. Come to the meeting—get all the details!

From the Board

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

SARA Board Meeting Minutes 5/2/2002

In attendance:

President Rob Leiden, KR2L

Vice-President Brian Macherone, AB2IU

Treasurer George Williams, W2CSN

Director Paul Siemers, WY2F

Director Tim Long, W2UI

Director Bob Raffaele, W2XM

Member Dennis Hudson, W2LBT

Member Ray Wemple, KA2DVM, Schenectady Area
ARRL ENY Section LGL

The meeting was convened by President Leiden, KR2L,
in the Union College Olin Hall Conference Room at 7:05
P.M.

After a brief discussion, Director Siemers, WY2F made a
motion that the minutes be accepted as published in
SARA News. The motion was seconded by Treasurer
Williams, W2CSN, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's
report. Director Siemers, WY2F, made a motion that the
Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion was sec-
onded by Vice-President Macherone, AB2IU and passed
unanimously.

No new members were proposed and no new correspon-
dence was introduced.

President Rob Leiden, KR2L, reported that he'd con-
tacted Howard Lester, W2ODC re: the K2AE repeaters.
The Repeater Committee is reviewing the situation with
respect to obtaining a duplexer for the 220 MHz repeater.
If purchased commercially, Member Dennis Hudson,
N2LBT, reported that it would cost several thousand
dollars.

Three up-coming public service events are planned.
Member Ken Klikeman, AA2CW continues to do a fine
job as Public Service Coordinator. The Sunday nets
continue to publicize the events and provide a way for
interested hams to contact Ken.

The VE sessions are continuing on schedule.

The newsletter has been issued on time all year. Editor
Phil Bradway, KB2HQ assisted by Dennis, N2LBT and
Tim, W2UI are doing a fine job.

President Leiden, KR2L, reported that he is trying new

means of publicizing club meetings such as electronic
newsletters.

Vice-President Macherone, AB2IU, reported that ARRL
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs assistant Brendan
Price from the ARRL will be the May speaker.

Member Ray Wemple, KA2DVM, reported that a com-
mittee is forming to help the incoming Vice President
with the programs for next year. Bill Patmos, W2DHT,
and Bill Schwarting, WR2L will be the September speak-
ers and ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon,
N2FF will be the October speaker.

Member Ray Wemple, KA2DVM, also proposed that
SARA sponsor a fund to help Randy Palmer defray some
of his legal expenses. Treasurer George Williams,
W2CSN, made a motion that an article be submitted to
SARA News asking for donations and that it should also
be announced at meetings. The motion was seconded by
Director Tim Long, W2UI and passed unanimously.

The conduct of the upcoming election was announced.
Former President and Member Dennis Hudson, N2LBT,
was appointed to run the election during the June busi-
ness meeting.

The conduct of the vote at the next meeting re: the
proposed by-laws change was discussed and a procedure
agreed to.

Director Tim Long, W2UI, has three designs for the
lettering on the side of the SARA trailer that he will share
with the other Board members.

Director Paul Siemers made a motion to adjourn that was
agreed to at 8:08 P.M.

Rob Leiden, KR2L, recorder

Minutes, General meeting, May 6, 2002

President, Rob Leiden, KR2L, opened the business
meeting at approximately 7:30 PM. He stated that the
business at hand was to vote on the proposed
amendment to the SARA bylaws relating to the
removal of the references to the President of the
Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Association. He
noted that the proposal was published in SARA News
in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws.
Leiden said that the Board of directors reviewed the
proposal and a no vote was recommended. The
question was called. The membership present
unanimously defeated the proposed amendment.
The business meeting was then adjourned.

Phil Bradway, KB2HQ, recorder

ARRL/FCC/NYS

AMATEURS MUSTER FOR WEATHER EMERGENCIES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams activated or stood by to assist as severe weather struck several states in recent days. The National Weather Service (NWS) said storms over the April 27-28 weekend left pockets of devastation from Kentucky to Maryland.

"It has been a wild 24 hours in Charles County, Maryland," said Maryland ARRL Section Manager Tom Abernethy, W3TOM. A tornado April 28 badly damaged the business district in La Plata. Among structures destroyed or damaged were the Charles County Chapter of the American Red Cross office and the building housing the Charles County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Charles County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer Mike Tackish, KA3GRW, activated the Charles County ARES/RACES team's emergency plan. Amateurs established a UHF command/control net while VHF tactical nets supplied communications for the hospital, which was left without telephone service or internal communication.

"Amateur Radio has once again proved to be of immense value to our community in time of disaster," Abernethy said. "With large areas of the county without commercial power and cell phones not useful due to overloading, Amateur Radio provided a communications bridge in the time of need until normal services were restored."

In Kentucky, Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, said the Wide Area Repeaters Net (WARN) and Meade/Breckinridge County ARES responded April 28 to assist both the National Weather Service and Meade County Emergency Management when severe weather struck that state.

Dodson said a weather-spotting net activated after a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for the two counties. A few minutes later, a tornado was spotted in Breckinridge County. A second report of a possible tornado west of Irvington was followed by damage reports east of the town. As a result of amateur reports, the NWS issued a tornado warning. Several homes in the Irvington area were damaged or destroyed, Dodson said, and one person died. No major damage was reported in Meade County, although the area experienced power outages, high winds and heavy rainfall. Dodson said 11 amateurs participated in the response.

Floyd Sense, K8AC, notes that a tornado that swept through the Jackson Township, Ohio, area April 28 severely damaged the home of Jerry LaRocca, KF8EB, in Massillon. "Jerry and his wife, while in the house when the tornado struck, were uninjured," Sense said. "The home next door, about 50 feet away, was completely leveled."

In Erie, Pennsylvania, Lee Williams, N3APP, reported that a line of severe thunderstorms that plowed through his area April 28 left a trail of destruction. The Radio Association of Erie was providing communications for a March of Dimes nine-mile walk, which was called off after the severe weather hit.

"SKYWARN was activated, and the event's net control was advised that a tornado warning had been issued," Williams said. High winds damaged buildings at the Erie International Airport, which also suffered a power outage. Trees and power lines also were downed, but no injuries were reported.

In Missouri on April 24, tornadoes struck southeastern Missouri. Hardest hit were Butler, Carter and Madison counties. More than 100 homes were damaged or destroyed. ARRL Missouri Section Emergency Coordinator Patrick Boyle, KOJPB, said ARES teams and individual amateurs remained on standby to assist if needed during the recovery period.

Excerpted from the ARRL Letter

Tower Cases

KINDERHOOK

WE WON!!!! The LAST Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held tonight (4/3/02). The ZBA read a prepared statement that stated their findings, based upon the past 8 months of hearings.

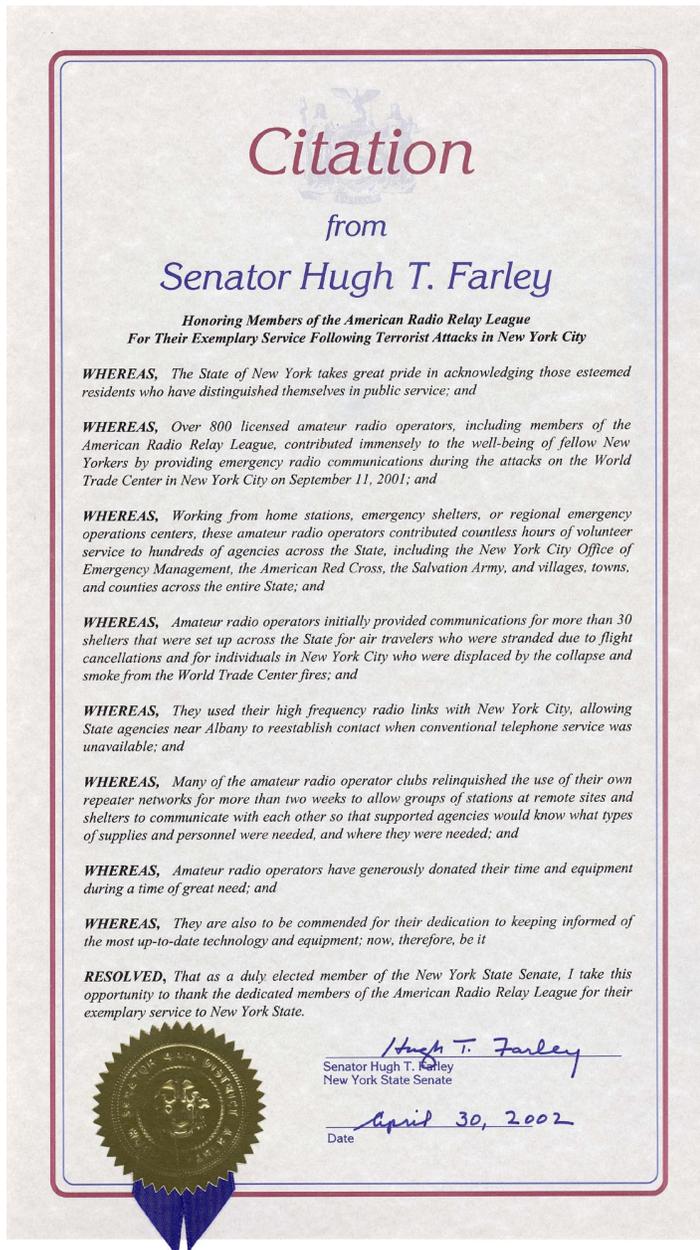
They clearly stated that if my application was considered only based upon the request for a variance, it would not have been granted. They further acknowledged that PRB-1 was a major factor in the decision. Thank you ARRL!

What was interesting was some of the comments in the statement relative to the conclusions of the ZBA. The proposed tower: 1. Does not alter the character of the neighborhood significantly. 2. Does not have a negative environmental impact. (SEQR) 3. Agreed that a negative impact to health based upon RF radiation was not proven. 4. Property values are not significantly affected by a ham radio tower. 5. 35 feet of tower is not conducive to effective communications and that 50 feet (my request) is the bare minimum for effective communications and that Ed Hare (W1RFI) the ARRL Lab Engineer had proven that 75 feet is the accepted height for optimum communications. (Thanks Ed!) 6. A crank-up tower is a safety issue.

The ZBA approved the application, after 8 months by a vote of 3 in favor to 1 opposed (yes the same one person who is clueless). The following conditions were placed upon my approved application: 1. The tower is approved for the left side of the house as opposed to right outside the shack on the right side. 2. They approved a total height of 75 feet; 50 feet of tower and 25 feet of antenna. (This was a pleasant surprise) 3. I agree to install an anti-climb device 4. The tower must be removed upon re-location. 5. I must provide proof of license renewal every 10 years. de Fred, WA2MMX

*Courage is the mastery of fear,
not the absence of fear
- Mark Twain*

Amateur Radio Recognized



The radio warriors, Frank Fallon, N2FF, Ray Wemple, KA2DVM and Jerry Agliata, W2GLA, visited Albany May 7, to continue their efforts on behalf of A1565 and S2893, the NYS PRB-1 legislation. On the Assembly side, things are moving along. On the Senate side, the bill is moving a little slower due to staff changes on the Local government committee. Issues have been addressed and progress is expected. While in Albany the group was presented a citation honoring Amateur Radio for its participation in the September 11 disaster. The Governor is expected do something similar. soon.



From the Editor's Shack It's been a great Ride!

Let's see..... My first issue as Editor of SARA News was in about 1987, somewhere around 15 years ago, if the math is right. WordStar 3.5 was the word processing program of choice. Still have the original XT, too! I did have a bit of a rest for a few years when Wendy, N2XXX, picked up the job, followed by Howard, WA2AFD. We were getting modern, by then! I had switched from WordStar to MS Publisher and Wendy started the move to Adobe PageMaker, where we are today.

There's been help along the way at times. Various folks have stepped it to assist in one or more of the publishing functions, such as folding, sorting and mailing. It's easier on the Editor, now. SARA News gets transmitted electronically to Tim, W2UI, for email distribution and to Dennis, N2LBT, for printing. All I have to do is write it!

It's time to move on. This is my last issue of SARA News. I will be essentially out of the area for an extended period of time and, even with the wonders of email, will not be able to meet the required dead lines.

Just like the "awards shows," I have some people I'd like to thank. First and foremost, thanks to my wife Bette, KA2AME, my in-house proof reader, for putting up with the monthly disruption of her busy routine and all the the helpful suggestions she's given. Then thanks to those that have provided printable material. It has been appreciated! There's too many to list but one individule just has to be specifically mentioned—Howard, W2ODC. Thanks also to those that have expressed their encouragement. It does help at times to know someone reads what you write.

I've tried to provide some helpful information on operating practices and the technology of ham radio, some humor and some opinion (A fair amount of that). At least SARA News hasn't just been a meeting notice.

Good luck to the next Editor, Please give him/her the same support you've given me.

Yes, it's been a great ride!

de Phil, KB2HQ



Saratoga Tower Case Wrap-up

As previously reported, Randy Palmer is now able to put up a tower in the City of Saratoga. After a 3 year process with the Saratoga Zoning Board, the case was finally decided in Federal District Court in Syracuse, NY. Although the court gave a favorable decision, it did not award costs! Expenses incurred by Mr. Palmer are in excess of several thousand dollars out of pocket. The Attorney, Al Millus, WB2EQR, has generously waived his fees but he does wish to have his direct expenses covered. Anyone who would like to help defray those expenses for Mr. Palmer may make a donation by sending a check or money order made out to RANDALL PALMER, to:

S.A.R.A.
 PO BOX 207
 ALPLAUS, NY 12008
 Attention: G. Williams, W2CSN, Treasurer

Donations also may be made to the treasurer of SARA at our regular monthly meetings.

The Trading Post



For Sale from W2DLM.

5/8 wave 2M Magmount ant. Bird Termaline wattmeter with various plug-ins. Bird 24 W dummy load - \$15

Note that those interested should call Rudy, W2JVF, on 372-6139 or E-mail W2JVF@juno.com

Free - Cleaning the library! Many years worth of QST; Some Ham Radio, too. 1978 and 79 hand-books plus other electronic research material is also available. LOTS OF JUNK BOX STUFF, TOO. Phil, KB2HQ, 377-8938 <kb2hq@nycap.RR.com>.

To post an ad in the September SARA News, email: sara@e-groups.com.

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@e-groups.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

Have You Up-graded Recently?

The ARRL reports that the Amateur Extra class population tops 100,000. For the first time ever, the population of Amateur Extra class operators topped 100,000 licensees. According to figures available from the FCC Amateur Radio Statistics Web site <<http://ah0a.org/FCC/index.html>> compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, there were 100,153 Extra; 85,690 Advanced; 138,980 General; 319,768 Technician (including Tech Plus); and 38,574 Novice licensees. As of the end of April, there were 683,165 total Amateur Service licensees in the FCC database. According to Speroni's statistics, 1888 new licensees came aboard during April 2002—1800 of them as Technicians.

Exams are easily available, as are study materials and on-line interactives. Check out www.qrz.com and wvara.org, both of which have practice exams.

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 <www.arrl.org> for details.

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



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