



# SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

October, 2002

K2AE Repeaters

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

## Public Service

Sunday, October 6, 2002

The Girl Scout annual riverwalk needs communication volunteers. Call Ken Clickman at 861-6825 to volunteer, and show up at noon at Schenectady Community Colledge.

The Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club Marathon is looking for communication volunteers for it's October 13 event. Call Ken Clickman at 861-6825 for details of this event.

The annual Stockadathon meet will be held on November 10 this year. The SARA communications volunteers will be needed this year as usual .Call Ken for details.

And let's not forget the annual Christmas Parade.

## December Holiday Party

Save the date of December 2 for the SARA Holiday Party, which will be held at the Price Chopper Community room on Eastern Parkway. See the article on page 3 by George Williams for details of this event.

## SK

Jack Dugan, W2IAX, passed away in September after a long illness. His electronics career included positions at SUNY and Dudley Observatory. Jack has been noted for his frequent activity on the SARA two meter repeater. The club will miss his assured presence on the air.

## October Program

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

**Topic: The Changes in ARRL and Ham Radio since 9/11**

There have been a few!

Frank Fallon is presently serving his seventh year as Hudson Division Director and his fourth year serving on the ARRL Executive Committee. He is also a director member on the ARRL Foundation, serves on the Scholarship Committee, the Antenna Assistance Committee, and the Membership Services Committee.

Frank has led the charge to get PRB-1 bills in the NY and NJ Legislatures. He is involved with getting cosponsors for HR 4720, which is Congressman Israel's "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002. This bill will allow those hams living under CC&R restrictions and home owners associations to put up outside antennas.

Frank has always provided an interesting, exciting, and varied meeting. This one should be no exception!

**Directions for Olin Hall are on page 2**

## November Program:

The Annual K2AE Swap Fest. and Flea Market Location is presently being negotiated. Dan Whelan, N2UD is in charge of this event. He can be reached at 895-2754..

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**SARA web site**

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

## From the Board

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

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board of Directors Meeting September 5, 2002  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, at 7:32 PM in the Union College Olin Hall Computer Lab.

#### Attendees:

Vice-President Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR  
Treasurer George Williams, W2CSN  
Secretary Tim Long, W2UI  
Director Paul Siemers, WY2F  
Director Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW  
Director Rob Leiden, KR2L  
Member Dan Whelan, N2UD  
Member Clark Gittinger, KG2AO

#### Minutes

Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion to accept the minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 25, 2002 as published in SARA News. Rob Leiden, KR2L, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Treasurer's Report

George Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's Report. Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, and it passed unanimously.

#### New Members

George Williams, W2CSN, presented new member Dan Schwarting, KB2ZVM, for the Board's approval. After a short discussion, George Williams, W2CSN, made a motion to accept the new member. The motion was seconded by Rob Leiden, KR2L, and it passed unanimously.

#### Correspondence

Tim Long, W2UI, reported that no correspondence had been received since the last Board Meeting.

#### Public Service: No Report

VE sessions: No Report

Repeater Committee: No Report

RFI: No Report

#### SARA News

The Board commended Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, on his first issue as The Editor of SARA News. We all thanked Clark for doing a great job. Ramsey reported that alternatives and possibilities are being investigated for the duplication phase of SARA News distribution.

#### Membership

Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, reported that Alex Raycette (KC2IYX) did not receive the customary one year free membership after passing the exam at one of the SARA VE Sessions. We all agreed that the free one year membership would be extended for the 2002-2003 year. Ramsey also reported that the phone campaign was working and thanked everyone.

#### Public Relations

Rob Leiden, KR2L, will continue using the traditional outlets for announcements and information about SARA events. Rob also stated that he would try to begin using the local cable channel as an additional outlet.

#### Programs

Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, announced that Dan Whelan, N2UD, had volunteered to be the Chairman of the SARA Flea Market to be held in November and that George Williams, W2CSN, had volunteered to be the Chairman of the Holiday Party to be held in December. Dan and George both stated that help would be welcomed.

#### Meeting Location

Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, reported that she had contacted Niskayuna for use of facilities at the High School. Potentially, we may be able to use the old cafeteria. We may have to pay custodial fees if the meetings run late and all details remain to be worked out. Advantages of this location were discussed. Rob Leiden, KR2L, volunteered to contact Niskayuna to resolve all concerns and firm arrangements.

#### New Business

George Williams, W2CSN, made a motion to accept the slate of officers which consists of Paul Siemers, WY2F, for President and Dan Whelan, N2UD, for Director. The motion was seconded by Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, and it passed unanimously. The election will be held at the General Meeting on Monday, 9/9/02.

Bob Raffaele, W2XM, is organizing an amateur radio class. SARA agreed to back the class. Rob Leiden, KR2L, agreed to distribute notices and announcements in area Radio Shack stores if Bob would produce them.

The Budget for the 2002-2003 year was discussed. Tentative budget amounts were discussed. George Williams, W2CSN, agreed to provide a formal proposal for Board action at the next Board meeting.

Rob Leiden, KR2L, solicited ideas to use the SARA trailer and to promote SARA in our community. Ideas like special events, Message fairs, and a float in the Schenectady Christmas Parade were discussed.

Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 PM and Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, concurred.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

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## Directions to Olin Hall

Enter Union College via the entrance at Nott St. and Van Vranken Ave. Bear left at the first road junction, drive around a curve, and bear right into a parking lot. From the lot, walk south through another parking lot (usually full) and along a short walkway, passing Achilles Rink on the left and the utilities plant and the Engineering Lab on the right. You will come to an east-west road with a large three story building (Butterfield Hall) across the road ahead of you and the athletic field to your left. Turn right (West) on the road and pass two traffic barriers. After the second barrier, bear somewhat left along a relatively new sidewalk which goes around the new Olin Hall to its glass front entrance. The meeting room is just inside, to the left. Walking Distance 350 Yards.

If all else fails, here are the GPS co-ordinates:

North 42 Deg. 49.061 Min. West 73 Deg. 55.694 Min.

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## Get SARA News by E-Mail

You can arrange to have SARA News delivered direct to your E-Mail address in PDF format, readable by a free download of the Adobe Acrobat Reader. You will get a color version of the newsletter (usually not much color) sooner than by mail, which you can print if you desire. E-Mail delivery also saves the club time, volunteer effort, and money (Both printing expense and postage have gone up considerably this year). If interested, contact Tim Long, W2UI at 399-7454 or [longt@empireone.net](mailto:longt@empireone.net).

## A Day in the Life of a Microwave Rover

During a VHF - UHF - Microwave contest, such as the one held this September, the object is to make as many contacts in as many grid squares in as many of the higher amateur bands as possible. A club operation can raise its score by a large amount by employing "rovers", whose job is to travel to good spots in several different grid squares (fixed rectangular areas laid out over the whole country) and contact the main club operation from each of these squares at frequencies in every ham band from 50 MHz to 24 GHz or higher. Since these are "line of sight" frequencies, the main club operation is preferably on top of a mountain. The rovers use both their own and club supplied equipment, much of which is homemade.

The RPI Radio Club mounts a massive contest effort during each contest, basing their main station on top of Mt. Greylock using the call W2SZ. As many as 20 rovers are used, some as far away as Maine. Many SARA members are involved, both on Greylock and as rovers. During this contest, I (Clark KG2AO) volunteered to work four grid squares on Sunday, Sept. 15. I hoped for a beautiful fall day.

Did I get it? No Way. Rain and Thunderstorms Forecast!!

I put on my raingear and drove out to the first rover site in a light drizzle. Not too bad so far. I met up with Mike, W2ARQ, who had the same schedule (We like to travel in pairs in case of problems), and set up the multiple pieces of equipment on a card table on the side of the road. Then we sat and waited in the drizzle waiting for the crew on Greylock to get to us (They have a lot of rovers to deal with). Meanwhile the equipment was getting wet (not good). When our turn came I discovered that the CW sending key on my equipment had shorted in the rain! (Yes, some of the equipment is CW). I ended up sending code by touching two wires together, ragged, but it worked! But 10 and 24 GHz were a bust due to the wet atmosphere.

At the second site we set up again, in the same drizzle. We completed contacts on the lower frequencies and were setting up 10 GHz when all of a sudden there was a FLASH-BOOM, followed immediately by a major downpour. I saved the gear and hid in the car, but Mike stuck it out a bit longer. And yes, my raingear leaked.

And so it went with the third and fourth sites. The rain let up some of the time, allowing us to make lower frequency contacts, but we finished the day in a soggy state. Even the car seat was soaked.

But the rover efforts paid off. The club won the contest in spite of the weather. Would I do it again? You bet. It just proves that you must be a bit crazy to enjoy ham contests!

Clark, KG2AO

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### Come Join the Sunday ARIES-RACES nets. All are welcome.

1:00 PM - K2AE 444.200 repeater

1:15 PM - K2AE 224.060 repeater (Off air temporarily)

1:30 PM - K2AE 147.060 repeater

2:00 PM - 3953 KHz, 75 Meter HF Band

## The Trading Post



**FOR SALE  
OR TRADE**

Walter H. Schick, W2KE, is offering his entire inventory of Ham Shack equipment for sale! He is no longer using it and wishes to pass it on to deserving Hams. This is First Rate Equipment, heavily used but meticulously cared for. Items include a rare Signal One Tranceiver, a tower, and numerous other assorted items. Contact him or drop in to look over the equipment.

Walter H. Schick, W2KE

1190 Van Curler Avenue, Schenectady, NY 346-2997

whschick1@juno.com .

To post an ad in the September SARA News,  
email: [sara@e-groups.com](mailto:sara@e-groups.com).

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### SARA Holiday Party

**Price Chopper Community Center, Eastern Parkway**

**7.00PM to 9.00PM, December 2, 2002**

Greetings,

WE have the Price Chopper Community Room on Eastern Parkway reserved for 7:00PM to 9:00PM. To help coordinate the potluck menu, i can suggest thefollowing :

George, W2CSN, will provide paper plates, knives, forks, spoons, and napkins.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

Main dishes to serve four

Vegetables to serve eight

Salads to serve six

Deserts for eight.

I will call people but some people may want to call me at home to sign up to bring a particular dish. I have set up a web site that can display the menu and who is bringing what. This will help balance things out. The URL is

<http://sh201.union.edu/SARA/>

Additional suggestions and task voulenteers would be welcome. Lets have a big attendance!!!

George H. Williams, W2CSN

e-mail: [williamg@tardis.union.edu](mailto:williamg@tardis.union.edu)

voice: (518)388-6273

fax: (518)388-6789

## 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 what you want your club to be!

### Officers:

Pres: Paul Siemers, WY2F, (siemers@crd.ge.com) 371-0215  
VPres: Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, (gittingn@crisny.org) 377-0671  
Sec: Tim Long, W2UI, (longt@empireone.net) 399-7454  
Treas: George Williams, W2CSN (williams@tardis.union.edu) 377-6188  
Dirs: Rob Leiden, KR2L, (bleiden1@nycap.rr.com) 399-9343  
Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, 377-2263  
Daniel Whelan, N2UD, 895-2754  
Gerry Crawmer, KE2JJ, 371-1797

### Committees:

SARA News: Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, (gittingn@crisny.org) 377-0671  
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: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW 377-2263  
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

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