



SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

December, 2002

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, December 2, 2002 at 7:30 PM, Price Chopper Community Room

Public Service

It's time for the Schenectady Christmas Parade again! The parade is held the Friday evening after Thanksgiving and SARA has traditionally been right in the middle of it all, helping to organize the starting positions of the floats and the order of their march down State St. Afterwards, there's usually a reception with refreshments for all the parade workers at the Chamber of Commerce office near the intersection of State St. and Erie Blvd. If you'd like to be a part of one of the premier public service events in the Capital District, contact Ken Clapper, AA2CW, SARA's Public Service Coordinator at kclikema@nycap.rr.com or 861-6825, who will pass along the details along with the specific place and time to assemble.

December Event - SARA Holiday Party
Price Chopper Community Center, Eastern Parkway
7.00PM to 9.00PM, December 2, 2002

SARA has the Price Chopper Community Room on Eastern Parkway reserved for 7:00PM to 9:00PM. To help coordinate the pot-luck menu, George, W2CSN, needs the following help:

- Main dishes to serve four
- Vegetables to serve eight
- Salads to serve six
- Deserts for eight.

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

The Price Chopper Community Center is directly across from the Price Chopper supermarket on Eastern Parkway in Schenectady. Coming east on State St. from downtown Schenectady, take a left on to McClellan St. and a right on to Eastern parkway just after St. Clares hospital. Coming west on State St. from the Albany area, take a right on to Balltown Rd., Rt. 146, and cross over Rt. 7. Take a left on to Eastern Parkway after the Rt. 7 intersection and follow Eastern Parkway until you see the Price Chopper parking lot on your left. The Community Center will be on the right.

Contact George, W2CSN at: e-mail: williamg@tardis.union.edu
voice: (518)388-6273
fax: (518)388-6789

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**A Preview of the January meeting -
"Trim But Deadly" at the SARA meeting on
January 6, 2003**

or

"What? Did they still use rotary spark gaps in 1944?"

"Trim but deadly" is what they were called in World War II, thin skinned but armed to the teeth, the feisty little Destroyer Escorts were sent in harms way of guns and torpedoes in the Atlantic, and kamikazes in the Pacific. And they were *expendable* ! Of some 565 DEs that were built, *only one* remains afloat in the United States. The USS SLATER, DE-766, is now "home ported" in the Hudson River at Albany. Restored to its 1945 wartime configuration, the SLATER is open to the public for tours as an historic Destroyer Escort Museum. The ships armament of 3 inch guns, 40 mm guns, 20 mm guns, hedgehogs and depth charges are all original. The radio room is equipped with original Navy transmitters and receivers (boat anchors), many being restored to operating condition by a volunteer crew consisting mostly of local hams. Using the callsign WW2DEM, SLATER participates in amateur radio special events using the ships original restored longwire antennas and when possible, original Navy equipment. At the January SARA meeting, *Gerry Jones, K2AYM*, will present a slideshow including some of SLATERS radar and radio equipment as well as the refrigerator-sized low frequency transmitter type TAJ built by GE in Schenectady in 1944. Some of the features of the equipment more interesting to hams will be discussed in some detail.

.....And learn whether US Navy ships still used rotary spark gaps in 1944 !

Gerry Jones, K2AYM, is part of the team restoring the radio equipment and other electronic systems aboard the Slater. The Slater restoration team is frequently represented at Crossgates Mall in Guilderland where more information about the Slater and its restoration is available.

From the Board

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

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Board of Directors Meeting October 31, 2002 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Siemers, WY2F, at 7:01 PM in the Union College Olin Hall Conference Room.

Attendees:

President Paul Siemers, WY2F Secretary Tim Long, W2UI Director Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW Director Rob Leiden, KR2L, Director Jerry Crawmer, KE2JJ, Member Jay Freud, K2QNU

Minutes

Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, made a motion to accept the minutes of the Board Meeting held on October 3, 2002 as published in SARA News. Rob Leiden, KR2L, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

George Williams, W2CSN, had previously emailed the Treasurer's Report to Paul Siemers, WY2F, who presented it to the Board. Rob Leiden, KR2L, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, and it passed unanimously.

New Members

Rob Leiden, KR2L, presented new member Doug Baker, K2YCQ. After a brief discussion, Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, seconded the nomination and the new member was accepted unanimously.

Correspondence

Tim Long, W2UI, reported that we had received 3 membership renewals, a bank statement, and the phone bill since the last Board Meeting.

Public Service - No Report

VE sessions - No Report

Repeater Committee

Rob Leiden, KR2L, reported that the duplexer for the 220 repeater was on order.

RFI - No Report

SARA News

The latest issue of SARA News was duplicated at the EOC by Clark Gittinger, AA2AO, for the cost of the paper. Tim Long, W2UI, reported that Dan Fiorillo expressed that this arrangement could continue.

Public Relations

Dan Whelan, N2UD has begun to explore the possibilities of holding an amateur radio event within the Rotterdam Square Mall. We are awaiting the results of Dan's efforts.

Programs

All programs for the year have been scheduled. No further discussion.

Old Business

George Williams, W2CSN, was not able to attend the Board meeting. The budget will be presented and voted at the December Board meeting.

New Business

George Williams, W2CSN, has set up a web page for planning our SARA Holiday Party. We should all visit the web page and sign up to bring goodies.

Traveler's Stock - We own 5 shares of Class A and 11 shares of Class B Traveler's stock valued at approximately \$13.60 per

share. We received notice that we could either sell the shares that we own or we could buy an additional 95 shares of Class A and another 89 shares of Class B to make 100 share blocks of each Class. Paul Siemers, WY2F, will determine if participation in this program is mandatory and if we have the option of keeping the shares of stock that we own. Paul will solicit votes via email on this recommendation.

ARRL Emergency Course - Rob Leiden, KR2L, reported that limited Government grant money is available to fund participation in the emergency training course offered by the League and that this is an opportunity to become certified. We will put an announcement in the next SARA News and make announcements at the SARA meetings.

Tim Long, W2UI, made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM and Paul Siemers, WY2F, concurred.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

From the (Guest) Editor's Shack

Riding into work one day, I mentioned on the SARA 2M repeater that my PC was acting strangely. My word processor kept running out of memory. To the rescue came Rich, KB2WPA, with both the cause and the cure. The next day, I had a fix in my email and an Anti-virus program bought and installed on my PC.

Now, getting the answer to a problem on SARA's repeater isn't unusual. My 30L-1 linear T-R relay wasn't operating anymore. Howard, W2ODC, had the answer, a new 10MF electrolytic capacitor in the TR relay power supply.

The help doesn't have to be related to ham radio, computers or anything technical, either. I've received (mostly) good advice on where to get a good meal, directions on how to get where I need to go, what movies people have enjoyed and even the best places to buy major appliances.

So what's this all got to do with the ability of RF to propagate in air? Just that we all gain so much when we focus on what is good and enjoyable about amateur radio, when we help each other and work together to achieve something worthwhile. Repeaters are a wonderful tool for doing just that as well as serving a vital purpose in times of emergency.

So please, if you don't use the SARA repeaters, consider starting to listen and throwing out your call from time to time. This time of year, just wishing each other the best of the holiday season is reason enough, but it also opens up opportunities for all of us to get to know and help each other in between SARA meetings. Your presence will also add to SARA's roster of repeater users in case we need to help the community in times of emergency.

73 de Rob, KR2L

IMPORTANT NOTICE !!!!!

This will be the last issue of SARA News that you receive if your dues aren't up to date. To renew, contact George, W2CSN - see page 4 for his email address and phone number.

NYC Marathon Report

The first weekend in November, Dennis Hudson, N2LBT and I hop on the Amtrak and head down to the Big Apple for one of the largest public service events in the world, the NYC Marathon. This year, we decided to go down on Friday afternoon and make a full weekend of it. We were soon registered at the hotel and eating dinner with friends from across the country we hadn't seen in more than a year.

The Marathon's amateur radio support is organized by the ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML. Communications include more than six separate nets on simplex and repeater frequencies to handle logistical needs for all services involved in the Marathon. A communications trailer with net control stations is set up adjacent to the Finish Line in Central Park. With the race course starting in Staten Island and ending in NYC's Central Park, two repeater nets, Tactical North and Tactical South, handle any special needs along the race course. There are Family Reunion nets to help runners link up with family members at the conclusion of the race and Drop Out nets that communicate to race officials and family members when runners are no longer in the race and desire to meet up with their families. Drop Out nets, organized by Steve Koeper, KF2JA and primarily staffed by hams from the Crystal Amateur Radio Club (Rockland County) work with hams on sweep busses stationed at the rear of the pack of runners. The busses pick up runners who drop out of the race and they have translators as well as hams on board to help arrange for transportation back to Central Park where the runners' families wait for them.

Family reunion takes place on Central Park West. The road is closed to traffic and families are organized by last name into stations along the reunion area. Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, and volunteers, primarily from the Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA), staff this area and primarily use simplex for communications within the confines of the Park. Tom carefully chooses a simplex frequency that is as far away as possible from repeater transmit frequencies and intermod is a continuous concern during the Marathon. Most repeaters are toned and the tones passed through to permit HT's to be set up for tone squelch, eliminating much of the distracting intermod.

Many of the most important race officials have amateur radio "shadows" to provide a quick response to any need through the net control stations in the centrally located communications trailer. Headsets with hands-free microphones are especially important to these assignments since hams often need to write down messages prior to relay and often are doing so while walking (and even running!...remember, these folks belong to the NY Road Runners Club.)

Tactical call signs (e.g. "Milepost 18", "Drop Out Bus #1", "Park Van") are used to ease the identification of incoming traffic. Amateur callsigns are appended to the end of each transmission to keep everything legal.

Dennis, assigned to Celebrity Family Reunion had a terrific time both communicating and just helping out. The Park Police were terrific to me as well, as I handled communications between them and other race support organizations.

It was all over by about 6 PM on Sunday. Dennis and I hopped on the 8th Avenue line and had time for a leisurely dinner in Penn Station before taking the train back up to Albany.

If you ever get the chance to operate during the NYC Marathon, Boston Marathon or similar event, I guarantee that you will look back on the experience with many fond memories and a great sense of satisfaction. We have the Schenectady Christmas Parade coming up and, while it isn't as big an event as a Marathon, still is a chance to hone your emergency communications skills, make new friends, make our contribution to the community visible and just have a great time!

73 de Rob KR2L

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.

Come Join the Sunday ARES-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

ARRL gets grant for Emergency Communications

If interested in taking the level 1 Emergency Communications Course offered by the ARRL over the Web free of charge, contact Ken Akasofu, KL7JCQ, the ENY ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator. Until a \$400K grant is exhausted, the Federal Gov't is supporting hams taking this course to improve their capabilities to assist in times of emergency. Contact Ken at the ENY ARRL Web Site - <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/eny/>

SARA web site

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

The Trading Post



For any items to trade or sell or if you are looking for some item, contact the editor or post email to the address below.

For sale:

ICOM IC-03AT mint condition 220 MHz HT w/large NiCAD battery and charger: \$250. Contact Rob, KR2L at the phone/email on page 4.

To post an ad in the January 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@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: Rob Leiden, KR2L (bleiden1@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

December, 2002

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

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