



# SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

January, 2003

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, January 6, 2003 at 7:30 PM, Niskayuna High School Meeting Rooms D207-D208

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

## IMPORTANT -- MEETING ROOM CHANGE

The meeting will be held in Niskayuna High School meeting rooms D207-D208. See page 2 for directions.

## Public Service

There are no public service events scheduled for January.

## Schenectady Christmas Parade

A morning snowstorm cleared up in time for Schenectady to hold its annual Christmas Parade Friday evening, November 29, 2002. The parade went off smoothly, but a few interesting moments occurred when floating balloons had to be squeezed under the State Street railroad underpass. As usual, SARA volunteers provided communication, using the K2AE repeater.

The volunteers were AA2CW, N2ZQF, KG2AO, KB2SWR, W2EMS, W2DHT, KC2IBI, KC2IBF, KA2TIJZ, W2BEJ, and KB2SBL. Thanks, all, for your efforts.

## Preview Of the February Meeting

Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK, will be giving a talk on "Internet Usage". The meeting will be held February 3rd at the Niskayuna High School. Details will be given in the February SARA NEWS.

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**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 November 21, 2002  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Siemers, WY2F, at 7:17 PM in the Union College Olin Hall Computer Lab.

### Attendees:

President Paul Siemers, WY2F  
Secretary Tim Long, W2UI  
Treasurer George Williams, W2CSN  
Director Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW  
Member Clark Gittinger, KG2AO

### Minutes:

Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, made a motion to accept the minutes of the Board Meeting held on October 31, 2002 as published in SARA News. George Williams, W2CSN, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report:

George Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's report to the Board. Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, and it passed unanimously. George also reported that the shares of Traveler's stock had been sold.

New Members: None presented.

### Correspondence:

Tim Long, W2UI, reported that we had received one membership renewal, one address correction, a bank statement, and the phone bill since the last Board Meeting.

Public Service: No Report

VE Sessions: No requests received to take exams.

Newsletter: Status quo.

Membership: No Report

Public Relations: No Report

Repeater Committee: No Report

RFI: No Report

### Programs:

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

### Old Business:

SARA Budget – George Williams, W2CSN, presented the SARA Budget for the 2002-2003 year. After a short discussion and minor adjustment of some entries, Tim Long, W2UI, made a motion to accept the Budget as amended. Clark Gittinger, KG2AO seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Raffle: No Report

### Meeting Location:

Paul Siemers, WY2F, reported that the new meeting location seems to be popular and that last month's meeting had over 60 attendees. The "new" cafeteria is the promised location and the misunderstanding that caused the school to double book the cafeteria had been resolved.

### Holiday Party:

George Williams, W2CSN, reported that 4 members had used the web page to sign-up to bring an item to the Holiday Party. We agreed that we needed a phone campaign to increase participation. George will solicit the aid of Bill Patmos, W2DHT.

### New Business:

ARRL Emergency Course – Paul Siemers, WY2F, stated that an announcement had been published in SARA News and that a verbal announcement was made at the last SARA meeting.

George Williams, W2CSN, made a motion to adjourn at 7:56PM and Paul Siemers, WY2F, concurred.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

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## Silent Keys

With sadness we note the passing of Donald Walsh WA2TSW, Donnie Becker K2RAB, "Newt" Barnes W2GM, and Sig Derkowski N2QIK.

Don WA2TSW was a long time SARA member, a Broughton Award recipient for his public service, and Secretary of the Broughton Fund. He was a long time active member of Schenectady County RACES. A leader in SARA, he surely will be missed.

Newt Barnes W2GM was a long time Albany Club member, but well known to all in the area as one of the more active hams. He had been with GE Broadcasting for many years.

Donnie Becker K2RAB was from Schoharie, but had been a member of SARA and active in public service for many years.

Sig Derkowski N2QIK was one of the newest Schenectady Hams. Our sympathies go to the families of our fellow hams now departed, but who all leave their marks for us to follow.

W2ODC

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## Directions for Niskayuna High School Meeting Rooms D207-D208

Enter the school grounds at the traffic light just north of the Nott Street major intersection on Balltown Road. Drive to the road intersection in front of the main school entrance, and turn right at this intersection. Drive around to the back of the school, past a narrow point where the school and the adjacent shopping center are close together. Park in the first area of the rear parking lot that you come to. Enter the school at the entrance near to a large circular fan mounted on the side of the wall of the nearby building extension. (This extension has some fenced in electrical boxes at its end.) Turn Left, walk down the hallway to an intersecting hallway, and turn left again. The meeting rooms are on your left.

For those of us who want to play with GPS units, the entrance doorway is at N 42deg. 49.070min., W 73deg. 53.325min.

## K2AE Repeater News and Request for Donations

The big event in the last few weeks is the arrival of our new professional duplexer for the 220 MHz repeater station. This was a high cost item. For many years we operated the 220 repeater with a separate transmit and receive antenna. This allowed us to use a modified military set of cavities for duplexing with fairly good isolation. Unfortunately, during a heavy storm, the lower antenna being used for transmit was demolished. As a result the 220 repeater has been off the air temporarily. The duplexer will allow us to use the one antenna high on the tower.

The key performance characteristic of a repeater, other than location, is the isolation between the transmitter and the receiver so that a high sensitivity receiver can be used without having its sensitivity reduced by noise from the transmitter. Using two antennas with one of the antennas in less than optimum position means either the received or transmitted signal is poor. Now we will be able to use the 220 high performance antenna high on the tower for both transmit and receive. Work is proceeding to get the 220 repeater ready to go back on the air.

The 6-meter repeater has been ready to back on the air, but we are waiting for re-coordination of the frequency since it was off for longer than the minimum period set by the frequency coordination council, UNYREPCO. This is a newly refurbished professional GE repeater and should give excellent coverage.

There has been a very large amount of personal effort being put into the repeaters by several people, but I do want to call out the work especially of Scott Krone N2YCA on the 2-meter and 440 K2AE repeaters, and Don Miller W2EWY on the 6-meter repeater.

With all this activity, the repeater fund went down into the ground, and significant money was given from the SARA general fund to the repeater, especially the new 220 duplexer. We have not had a repeater fund drive in several years, and we are now requesting donations. You will be hearing more of this. Checks can be written to SARA, and marked "Repeater Fund". The SARA address is PO Box 207, Alplaus, NY 12008

Howard Lester, W2ODC, Trustee, K2AE Repeater

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### Need an instruction manual?

Bill Schwarting, WR2L, has discovered a web site where you can order a manual for that radio you picked up. They offer original factory manuals or zerox copies for a very reasonable price. Check it out at [www.hamradiomanuals.com](http://www.hamradiomanuals.com).

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### 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

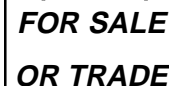
2:00 PM - 3953 KHz, 75 Meter HF Band

### 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 February SARA News, email:  
[sara@e-groups.com](mailto:sara@e-groups.com).

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### RACES/ARES Meeting

There will be a RACES/ARES meeting on Saturday January 11, 2003 at 10:00AM at the EOC in the Schenectady Police Station.

There has been little trouble with high water and ice jams on the Mohawk River for a few years so it is time to review RACES/ARES participation when these events occur. Those who have been involved with the River watches in the past may be a little rusty and there may be new people who are not familiar with the operation but who would like to be involved.

Besides RACES/ARES members, any other hams who would like to learn about this important service and would like to help, should also plan to attend this meeting. Actually, non ham citizens who live within sight of the River between Cohoes and Tribes Hill who could be called on the phone for an observation of the ice conditions in their area could provide valuable information, and are welcome also.

See you there.

Raleigh Keeter, K2RI  
RO, Schenectady County RACES

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### From the Editor's Shack

Many Thanks to Rob Leiden, KR2L, for taking over the SARA NEWS for December, while I was off on an extended vacation tour. You did a fine job, Rob.

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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).

## 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  
 Dir: 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 Klikeman AA2CW (klikema@nycap.rr.com) 861-6825  
 VE team: Bill Mischler, KG2AC

**VE registration: (518) 370-1350**

January, 2003

## 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

January, 2003

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