



SARA NEWS

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

Founded 1930

February, 2003

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, February 3, 2003 at 7:30 PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

Public Service

There are no public service events scheduled for February.

On March 2, The Winter Marathon of the Hudson - Mohawk Roadrunners Club will be held. The Albany radio club is supporting this event and could use several volunteers from SARA. Ken Clickman AA2CW has the details. He can be reached at 861-6825.

On May 4, SARA will again support the Crop Walk. Details will be given in future editions of the NEWS.

RACES/ARES Meeting, January 11

A summary of this important emergency preparedness meeting may be found on Page 3. In reading it, please note that a potential flood situation exists this year in the event of a heavy thaw or rainstorm. Flood watchers may be needed. If you think a problem may exist and are able to help, **please monitor the SARA repeater, 147.06MHz, for any emergency activity.**

Are Our Records Up To Date?

SARA is planning to publish a new membership list. (See the minutes on page 2 for details.) We are asking all members to update our records for Name, Call, Address, Phone Number, and E-Mail Address, and tell us how much, if any, of this information you want published in such a list. Contact Tim Long, W2UI, at 399-7454, or E-Mail him at longt@empireone.net.

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February Meeting

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TODAY

By Raleigh Keeter K2RI

Emergency communications are as important today as ever – and perhaps more so considering our present situation with the threat of terrorism everywhere. Raleigh will cover the role of ARES and RACES and review recent events. He will also review the use of nets and correct net procedures. He will talk about how each individual can be prepared, necessary training and the future of this very important service which we provide at no cost to local, state and national governments and the citizens of our communities. This is probably the most important reason for our existence.

The meeting will be held in the Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria on Monday, February 3, at 7:30PM. Talk-In will be available on the SARA repeater, 147.06MHz. Also see directions on Page 2.

Also note that the program previewed in the January News has been moved to March 3rd.

Preview Of the March Meeting

Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK, will be giving a talk on "Internet Usage". The meeting will be held March 3rd at Olin Hall, Union College. Details will be given in the March SARA NEWS.

100 Year Radio Anniversary

On January 18, 1903, Guglielmo Marconi made the first transatlantic radio transmission from his site on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. His achievement ushered in the Age of Radio.

What changes 100 years has brought!

From the Board

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

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association
Board of Directors Meeting January 2, 2003
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Siemers, WY2F, at 7:07 PM in the Union College Olin Hall Computer Lab.

Attendees:

President Paul Siemers, WY2F
Vice President Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR
Secretary Tim Long, W2UI
Treasurer George Williams, W2CSN
Director Gerry Crawmer, KE2JJ
Director Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW
News Editor Clark Gittinger, KG2AO

Minutes

Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, made a motion to accept the minutes of the Board Meeting held on November 21, 2002 as published in SARA News. Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, 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 Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, and it passed unanimously.

New Members — None presented.

Correspondence

Tim Long, W2UI, reported that we had received 6 membership renewals, a letter from Wendell White, a bank statement, and 2 phone bills since the last Board Meeting.

Public Service — No Report, no events scheduled.

VE Sessions

Bill Mischler, KG2AC, reported via Paul Siemers, WY2F that two hams passed exams at the December meeting.

Newsletter

Status quo. Duplication was done at Leonard Communications.

Membership — No Report

Public Relations — No Report

Repeater Committee — No Report

RFI — No Report

Programs

All programs for the year have been scheduled. Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, reported that it may be necessary to switch programs from month-to-month so that the presented topic can take advantage of the available venue. Back-up plans are already made and well in advance of any necessary announcement.

Old Business:

Raffle – No Report

New Business:

Repeater Fund Drive – Howard Lester, W2ODC, is organizing a repeater fund drive. No more details are available at this time. Paul Siemers, WY2F, will contact Howard for additional info.

Wendell White, KF2XY, wrote a letter to the Board requesting that we publish a membership list and cited several reasons for doing so. After some discussion, we agreed that we would publish a membership list and distribute it as an attachment to a regular mailing of the SARA News. The list will include all known present and past members that are still with us. The list will be sorted by both call and name. The list will include addresses if the list can be made to be concise. We need to give members the opportunity to withhold their phone number and to update membership information. Clark will put a notice in the next SARA News to remind members to update their info.

Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 PM and Paul Siemers, WY2F, concurred.

Respectfully Submitted -- Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

Directions for Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

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 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.) The New Cafeteria is directly across the hall from the entrance..

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

SK

Helen Dasenbrock, XYL of John W2ZPL, died Wednesday, January 15. W2ZPL is one of the active Old Timers in the area, with QTH in Rexford. Our Sympathies go to John and his family.

The ARES/RACES Meeting of January 11

A meeting of ARES/RACES personnel, and others who are interested, was held on Saturday, January 11, 2003 to discuss flooding and ice jams on the Mohawk River. About twenty people attended. There was a review of the location of staff gauges on the Mohawk River between Lock 7 at the Vichers Ferry Dam and Lock 12 at Fort Hunter. A loose leaf book of photographs of the gauges has been assembled which will be placed in the amateur radio area of the Emergency Operations Center. The Lock Tenders are another source of information of river conditions and these people are more likely to be on location since the Barge Canal has been taken over by the Thruway Authority. The river levels and flow rates of the Mohawk at Cohoes and at Little Falls are available on the web site of the U. S. Geodetic Survey. This web site also has the conditions for the Schoharie Creek at Burtonsville. The web site (<http://water.usgs.gov/realtime.html>) is very useful because it can be accessed from home and the conditions on the River and Creek quickly determined.

The physical location of the dams on the Schoharie Creek was reviewed along with the contribution that the Schoharie makes to the Mohawk at Schenectady.

Two representatives of the National Weather Service at Albany, John Quinlan and Tim Schrom, were present and made a very informative presentation. They discussed the terms used to describe the ice conditions on streams and presented data from the flood of January 1996. The computer programs used to process the data of snow cover, rain fall and ice conditions are continually being improved so that prediction accuracy should also improve. They also pointed out the water content of the snow pack that exists in January 2003, especially in the Schoharie Valley and the Mohawk Valley west of Schenectady, compares well with what existed in January 1996. A sudden spell of warm weather with a warm rain could duplicate the flooding of 1996.

Those who attended found the meeting, especially the presentation by the fellows from NWS, to be very informative.

Raleigh Keeter, K2RI

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

Repeater Fund Drive - 2003

Several years have passed since SARA had a Repeater Fund Drive and now it is time again.

Our Repeater Fund Drive is a combined drive with W2GBO repeater, 146.940 Troy, as our drives have been since our initial operations. At one time the two repeaters were operated as a common system with the same output frequency. If you were in the Hudson valley you used 146.340 input and the Troy repeater responded on 146.940. If you were in the Mohawk Valley you used 146.460 output and the Schenectady repeater responded on 146.940. This started 40 years ago. As time went on, and equipment and antennas improved, we then separated the frequencies so that a larger number of people could use the repeaters.

We benefit from a large amount of donated facilities, tower space, and some equipment. The hard work of committee people, such as Scott Krone N2YCA, Dick Frey WA2AAU, Dave Edwards WA2GBO, Don Miller, John Doblewski N2OJY and others who assembled, tested, and have done the technical work is invaluable. The use of tower space donated by GE, Bell, Capital Digitronics, and Leonard Communications is a dollar item that could swamp a club such as ours. The Telephone Pioneers do not provide any financial assistance to the W2GBO repeater.

But we do have capital equipment costs and maintenance costs that continue every month. Our SARA telephone control line is a monthly item of not small consequence. Our most recent major capital purchase was for a duplexer for the 224.060 MHz repeater at a cost of \$900. Formerly, we used separate antennas for receive and transmit for this repeater but the transmit antenna was destroyed in a storm that ripped open the covering radome. The duplexer allows efficient use of the same antenna for receive and transmit which is high on the tower. Although we expect to put on the old repeater equipment, this will be temporary, as equipment has been gathered which can be modified for this band, but using reliable commercial equipment.

The 6-meter repeater equipment has been readied by W2EWY, and we are waiting for the coordination to be confirmed by the Upper New York Repeater Council.

The W2GBO repeater has some serious capital expenditure confronting them. The hard RF transmission line, which is strung between poles, has become cracked which causes problems to the transmitter final as well as producing the well-known "scratchies" when the wind blows and sways the line. Although the W2GBO repeater uses commercial equipment, it is 3 generations back of GE equipment. Using tubes that are difficult to get has reduced reliability and is expensive. This has caused maintenance costs to be high. The plan here is to upgrade to the all solid state "next generation", and that equipment is being gathered and refurbished.

Money to make this all happen comes from two sources: the SARA budget line for the K2AE repeater and from your donations to the Repeater Fund. A fund drive letter will be sent out to the general community using the repeaters, which will include hams that are not members of SARA.

How much you give is strictly up to you, and is your private business. In the past we have averaged \$10 per donation. Send your check to Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 207, Alplaus, NY 12008. Indicate if you want the money to be split other than evenly between W2GBO and K2AE. Do indicate on your check "Repeater Fund" so that our Treasurer, George Williams, knows where it should go.

SARA web site

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

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 (williamg@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

February, 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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Schenectady, N.Y.

SARA News
P.O. Box 207
Alplaus, N.Y. 12008
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