



# SARA NEWS

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



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Founded 1930

December, 2003

K2AE Repeaters

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Meeting Monday, December 1, 2003 at 7:30 PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

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## Public Service

November 28, 2003: Annual Christmas Parade. This year the communications effort will be run by the Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Club. SARA volunteers are still needed. Call Ken Klikeman (861-6825) for details and to sign up.

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November 9, 2003: Stockade-athon:

The Stockade-athon 15K race was held on a very cold (30's) but crystal clear Sunday morning, perfect for the runners but co-oo-old for the support people, which included SARA members with their HT's. Warm gloves were necessary, which made pushing the transmit button a bit clumsy. Over 1000 runners entered the race, which made for a spectacular sight at times. The event went off without a hitch however, which made the communication job straitforward. Afterward, volunteers were invited to a party to help thaw out!

SARA participants were K2RI, N2WOL, N2UID, KA2NKO, KC2GMW, KG2AO, KB2TSA, N2PEQ, AA2CW, and N2LBT.

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## Repeater Fund Drive

The K2AE/W2GBO repeater fund drive is well underway, and contributions are coming in. Send yours now to SARA, George Williams W2CSN – treasurer, PO Box 207, Alplaus, NY 12008. Make out the checks to Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, and mark them "Repeater Fund". Also indicate if you wish other than 50/50 allocation to the 146.94 W2GBO and 147.06 K2AE repeaters.

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## December Meeting Annual Holiday Party

December 1, 2003:

Our annual Holiday Party will be held at Niskayuna High School in the new cafeteria starting at 7:30pm. This is a pot luck dinner party where everybody brings something yummy. Millie Gittinger has agreed to be the food coordinator. She will try to insure a varied menu. Let her know what you want to bring. (377-0671). Items needed include: appetizers; main courses; salads; desserts. If you are not sure what to bring, please call Millie for suggestions. **In any case, please call Millie so she knows what food to expect (377-0671).** Thank you.

George Williams has provided a web page for party menu information. It may provide some ideas. The URL is:

<http://tardis.union.edu/~williamg/sara/>

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## Upcoming Meetings

The January meeting will feature our own Dan Whelan, N2UD, speaking about the very important subject of "Station Safety". The meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2004 at the Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria, 7:30PM.

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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 sooner than by mail, which you can print if you desire. E-Mail delivery also saves the club time, volunteer effort, and money. If interested, contact Tim Long, W2UI at 399-7454 or [longt@empireone.net](mailto:longt@empireone.net).

## From the Board

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

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board of Directors Meeting October 30, 2003  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Hudson, N2LBT, at 7:03 PM in Olin Hall Rm 105 on the Union College Campus.

### Attendees:

President Dennis Hudson, N2LBT  
Vice President Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW  
Treasurer George Williams, W2CSN  
Secretary Tim Long, W2UI  
Director Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR  
Member Clark Gittinger, KG2AO  
Member Jay Freud, K2QNU

Minutes: Dennis Hudson, N2LBT, noted that the discussion of the 220 repeater should have been under Old Business. Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: George Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's Report to the Board. Tim Long, W2UI, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, and it passed unanimously.

New Members: None presented.

Correspondence: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that we had received 13 membership renewals, a monthly bank statement, a monthly phone statement, and a thank you letter from the ARRL for contributing to the BPL Fund, since the last Board Meeting.

Repeater Committee: No Report.

Public Service: No Report. The Stockadeathon is fully manned and the Christmas Parade needs more volunteers.

Newsletter: Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, reported that duplicating was done at Leonard Communications.

Membership: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that the database mailing filter had been changed to 6/30/2004. The email distribution changed from 50 to 38 members. The US Mail distribution changed from 95 to 76.

Public Relations: No Report. Still need chairperson.

Programs: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, reported that the January program would be Dan Whelan talking on "Station Safety",

and that the May program would be George Williams talking on a Special Event planned to be held at the Niskayuna Town Library. George Williams, W2CSN, reported that he would bring a roll of butcher paper to protect table tops for Monday night's swap fest.

VE Sessions: No Report. No requests have been received for exams.

RFI: No Report.

Constitution and By-Law Review: No Report.

Broughton Committee: No committee has been formed yet.

Old Business:

Box Trailer: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that two 12 foot long steel box beams, 4" X 2", 3/16" thick had been procured. Repairs will wait for favorable weather.

Dues Reminder Letter: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that the reminder letters had been mailed and that it had resulted in 13 renewals so far.

New Business:

Holiday Party: Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, has agreed to coordinate this years festivities.

The Board Meeting for November will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2003 and the Board Meeting for December will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

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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

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**SARA web site**

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

## NWS/ARRL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY SET FOR DECEMBER 6

The fifth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day will take place Saturday, December 6, 2003, 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. During the special event, Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is twofold: to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local NWS office. The event is cosponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe weather events and storm evolution. "You simply can't put a price tag on it," said Scott Mentzer, N0QE, organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable."

This year, radio amateurs once again proved their worth. On May 4, after tornadoes knocked out all communications in Stockton, Missouri, portable ham radio stations were set up and staffed by volunteers, with licensed NWS employees forwarding specific forecasts to hams at the Stockton Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In August, an Amateur Radio storm spotter in Iowa tracked a tornado until it lifted, providing the local NWS office in the Quad Cities with "ground truth." This resulted in more specific information and earlier warnings being disseminated to the public.

The story doesn't stop there. Deployed during a winter storm last March, hams in Fairbanks, Alaska reported pinpoint locations of freezing rain and snow. The information was relayed on 2 meters, which allowed the local NWS office to sharply define the warning area and provide detailed statements of ice accumulation. In Wisconsin, a volunteer operator reported to the NWS office early one spring morning and solicited snowfall reports from amateurs across the region, allowing the NWS to produce a detailed snow graphic and make a public statement summarizing the storm. Amateur Radio success stories such as these occur every year, all across the country.

In 2002, participants logged nearly 23,000 QSOs during the 24 hour event. Last year nearly 70 countries were contacted. To learn more, check out the NOAA Web site. — Thanks to David Floyd, N5DBZ, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Goodland, Kansas

(From the ARRL Newsletter, Vol. 22, No. 44)

## SOLAR UPDATE ARTICLES FROM THE ARRL NEWS

In consideration of the wild propagation conditions in November, the following articles should be of interest: (Editor)

Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: (Vol 22, No. 44, 11-8-03)

Last week's events caused excitement, but this week was positively historic. The largest explosion ever recorded in our solar system occurred Tuesday, November 4, when an X28 class flare exploded from sunspot 486. The flare erupted as the giant sunspot was about to rotate from the visible disk. This means the blast wasn't aimed at earth, but was in a great position for taking images. The eruption saturated X-ray detectors on NOAA's GOES (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites), and was so strong that the X28 measurement had to be estimated, as did the solar flux for November 4. The flare saturated observing satellites for about 13 minutes during the peak of the event, according to Christopher Balch of NOAA SEC, who spoke with Tomas Hood, NW7US. The measurements stopped at X17.4. The level of the flare was estimated by analyzing data from HESSI, the High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager. The last time a huge flare saturated X-ray detectors was in April, 2001, and that one was X-20, the biggest recorded at that time. Keep in mind that there aren't any accurate records of flare intensity before about 30 years ago. Sunspot numbers for October 30 through November 5 were 293, 266, 277, 174, 76, 79 and 32, with a mean of 171. 10.7 cm flux was 271.4, 248.9, 210.4, 190.4, 166.9, 168 and 114, with a mean of 195.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 162, 93, 21, 18, 10, 31 and 9, with a mean of 49.1.

From Vol 22, No. 45, 11-14-03, Tad Cook:

With big sunspots rotating out of view, sunspot numbers and solar flux values have plummeted. The daily sunspot number was 330 on October 29. A little more than a week later it was hovering around 12. The average daily sunspot number two weeks ago was 201.4. The next week it was 171, and last week it has sunk to 32.6. Similarly, average daily solar flux numbers for the past three weeks have been 249, 195.7 and 94.8. On November 6, sunspot 495 was still visible. It disappeared by the following day, leaving a spotless disk. The sunspot number that day was 11. In the following days some tiny sunspots emerged—498, 499 and 500. Sunspot 498 was disappearing from view by November 13. Now on November 14 sunspot 484 again is emerging on the visible disk from its trip around the other side of the sun. It was very active when last visible, but is now smaller. Sunspots 486 and 488 should follow, and we should see a rise in solar activity. Based on the previous solar rotation solar flux and sunspot numbers should peak again around November 23-25.

Right now, the interplanetary magnetic field points south, again leaving Earth vulnerable to flares and solar wind. A solar wind stream is currently affecting Earth, and this weekend should experience unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions with a slowly rising solar flux. Predicted planetary A index for Friday through Monday is 30, 30, 25 and 25. Solar flux values for those same days are expected to be 105, 110, 115 and 120. Sunspot numbers for November 6 through 12 were 12, 11, 29, 47, 47, 43 and 39, with a mean of 32.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 97.8, 91, 92.7, 93, 94.6, 95.6 and 98.7, with a mean of 94.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 14.8, 10, 25, 30, 51 and 26, with a mean of 23.4.

## 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: Dennis Hudson, N2LBT, 435-9730  
VPres: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, 377-2263  
Sec: Tim Long, W2UI, (longt@empireone.net) 399-7454  
Treas: George Williams, W2CSN (williamg@tardis.union.edu) 377-6188  
Dirs: Paul Siemers, WY2F, (siemers@crd.ge.com) 371-0215  
Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, (gittingn@crisny.org) 377-0671  
Carl Lester, K2YR,  
Gerry Crawmer, KE2JJ, 371-1797

### Committees:

SARA News: Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, (gittingn@crisny.org) 377-0671  
PIO: Open  
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**

## 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, 2003

December, 2003

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