



# SARA NEWS

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



Founded 1930

January, 2004

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, January 5, 2004 at 7:30 PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### Public Service

No Public Service events are scheduled for January.

November 28, 2003: Annual Christmas Parade.

Due to some very unfortunate mis-understandings with SMARA and the parade organizers, the SARA club was asked by the organizers to take over the communications for the parade on very short notice. SARA had to scramble, but put together a group of volunteers to successfully provide the communications, in spite of some minor repeater problems. Many thanks to the following volunteers:

Tony W2BEJ, Dennis, N2LBT, Ken, AA2CW, Millie KB2SWR, Clark KG2AO, Johnathan WY2T, Mary N2RPW, Fred W2EMS, and Bill KG2AC.

### Congratulations to Brand New Amateurs!

Having finished the AARA/SARA Tech course, and having passed the Tech exam Nov. 19, the following are sporting brand-new licenses:

Mary Lee Witham, KB1KNU;  
Bill Monaghan, KC2MEQ;  
Dan Fiorillo, KC2MER;  
Rich DeFries, KC2MES;  
Joseph Brown, KA2BHP (former novice).

Congratulations to all! Welcome to the fraternity!  
(The ham fraternity does not exclude Mary Lee.)

### SARA JANUARY PROGRAM Monday, January 5th 2004 7:30PM

#### "Lighting, Storms and Power Failures; How to Improve Your Ham Station's Chance to Survive and Keep Operating!"

Ever wondered about how to make your ham station safe and improve your chances to not suffer damage during a Lightening storm? How about assuring your station equipment will survive a power failure or blackout and be able to operate after the disaster?

Join Dan Whelan - N2UD for a night of discovering how some simple techniques can make your station more "bulletproof", safer and how to keep operating after the lights go out! Dans background includes 40 years as a ham, which includes having his station struck several times by lightning over the years. He will also talk about safely operating generators to power your station in the aftermath of storms. Join us on Monday January 5th 2004 at 7:30pm at the Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria. Talk-in can be provided via the 147.06 MHz SARA repeater. All Hams, SWL's, and all other interested parties are most welcome at this meeting.

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"Fooling around with alternating current is just a waste of time. Nobody will use it, ever."  
[Thomas Edison, 1889]

### Upcoming Meetings

Monday, February 2, 2004.

Subject unavailable at press time.

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## From the Board

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

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board of Directors Meeting November 20, 2003  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Hudson, N2LBT, at 7:04 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  
Director Gerry Crawler, KE2JJ  
Director Paul Siemers, WY2F  
Member Clark Gittinger, KG2AO

Minutes: 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, stated that the Treasurer's Report would be presented at the Regular meeting on Monday night, 12/1/03.

New Members: None presented.

Correspondence: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that we had received 2 membership renewals, a monthly bank statement, a monthly phone statement, a Certificate of Appreciation from the ARRL for contributing to the Spectrum Defense Fund, a notice from State Farm that our Insurance Agent had passed away, and a letter from the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce regarding the Christmas Parade, since the last Board Meeting.

Repeater Committee: No Report.

Public Service: No Report.

Newsletter: Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, reported that editing was almost complete.

Membership: No Report.

Public Relations: No Report. Still need chairperson.

Programs: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, reported that February, March, and April were open.

VE Sessions: We held a test session on Wednesday, 11/19/03, for the class just concluded by Bob, W2XM. We do not know

how many successful students there are yet.

RFI: No Report.

Constitution and By-Law Review: No Activity.

Broughton Committee: No committee has been formed yet.

Old Business:

Dues Reminder Letters: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that the recent reminder letters were targeted at previous members whose dues had lapsed for less than one year. Tim will draft a reminder letter targeted at previous members who had not renewed for the past 1 to 4 years.

Holiday Party: Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, reports that she has received no phone calls, that the Holiday Party web site had been created, that SARA News had publicized the event, that plans had been discussed, and that a short list of needs was being developed. Millie will make the necessary calls.

New Business: None

The Board Meeting for December will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2003.

Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

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## Holiday Party

A very warm "thank you" to all who brought food and beverages for the Holiday Party. We had a good variety. If anyone went away hungry, it was her/his own fault!

Best wishes for a warm holiday season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Millie KB2SWR

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## Repeater Fund Drive

The K2AE/W2GBO repeater fund drive is continuing. Send your contribution 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.

## FCC ANNOUNCES UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM MAKEOVER

The FCC has put a new face on the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>>, which includes the Amateur Service. The Commission unveiled the new on-line ULS filing interface December 14.

Among other features, the ULS makeover will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. The FCC said it would no longer accept a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)—a Social Security Number for most individuals—for log-in purposes.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>>

To assist with any ULS issues after the changeover, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site <<http://esupport.fcc.gov>> or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255)

ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail <[ulshelp@fcc.gov](mailto:ulshelp@fcc.gov)> or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322), Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888).

From the ARRL Letter, slightly edited.

## Editors Comments on ULS

We all need a FRN (FCC Registration Number) and a CORES (Commission Registration System) password. You need these to do anything with the FCC.

If you previously registered a few years back with the ULS, You probably already have a FRN. You can find out by going to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> and clicking on "FCC Registration Number (FRN)", which goes to <http://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/core/CoresHome.html>. A search by last name will give your FRN, along with everyone else with your name. (I hope your name isn't Smith). If you don't have a FRN, you can get one at this site. An alternate route is <http://www.fcc.gov/> and click on "Commission Registration System (CORES)".

Forgot your password? Go to <http://esupport.fcc.gov/password.htm> for a reset.

These sites are a big improvement over the old ones.

The Editor

## The Trading Post



Santa Didn't Bring You A New Radio?

Get one for yourself !

For Sale from the estate of David Tourtelott:

New Dual Band 2 meter, 440 Mhz hand held Radio Shack HTX 420. Up to 5 watts, 100 memory channels, wide ranging scanning abilities, split band operation, 7.2 volt, 1100 MaH rechargeable battery, charger, spare battery case and batteries, antenna adapter (SWA to BNC), transferrable three year extended warranty, mobile power cord, Mag-mount dual band antenna. Asking \$190. Call Bill Schwarting WR2L 399-8406 or Mrs. Jean Tourtelott 882-9064.

For any items to trade or sell or if you are looking for some item, contact the editor or post email to the following address: [sara@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sara@yahoogroups.com). You must join the e-group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sara/>. (It's free).

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: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

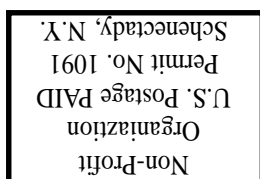
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL \_\_\_\_\_ RACES \_\_\_\_\_ ARES \_\_\_\_\_ MARS \_\_\_\_\_

Send to SARA, P.O. Box 207, Alplaus, N.Y. 12008-0207

June, 2003

January, 2004



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