



# SARA NEWS

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



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Founded 1930

February, 2004

K2AE Repeaters

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Meeting Monday, February 2, 2004 at 7:30 PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

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## Public Service

No Public Service events are scheduled for February. We can look forward, though, to Spring and Summer, when we provide communications for parades and races, etc. (See the Better late than never Thank You on page 2). In the meantime enjoy our wonderful sub-zero weather, absolutely ideal for outside antenna work! You may also want to check this out:

Albany Swapfest;

If you are interested in equipment etc., check out the Albany Club SwapFest this Month at their regular monthly meeting. The details are:

Albany Amateur Radio Association Swapfest

Friday, 2/13/04, 6.55PM, Colonie Community Center, 1653 Central Ave., Colonie.

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For Sale

We Have a few SARA Patches available, which can be had for \$5 each at the meeting. See George Williams, W2CSN, if you want one

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## New SARA Web Site URL's

In addition to the old SARA web site URL, you may now use the following much simpler URL's:

<http://k2ae.org/>

<http://k2ae.net/>

Either will work, and you usually dont have to type the http:// or the last /.. There is no www in these URL's..

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**SARA web site** (still good)

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

Get the latest on SARA activities

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## February Meeting

### A Short History of Microwave Power Tubes

Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, will present a short tour of how the problem of generating multi-kilowatt power in the microwave region was solved by the development of high power klystron amplifiers at GE, starting in the mid 1930s and finishing in 1970. Rudy will include a discussion of the limitations of triodes and tetrodes at frequencies above a couple of hundred megahertz, this led to the discovery of the principle of velocity modulation that is the basis of all klystron and travelling wave tubes. He relates how the idea of velocity modulation developed and how power levels were increased over the years. He includes a description of the klystron that is used today in the AWACS radar by several countries.

Rudy will also include a video presentation involving many of the scientists and engineers at GE that were involved in the R & D that resulted in klystrons for such applications as UHF TV broadcasting and high power pulsed radar.

Come and listen to this history of important discovery-development right here in Schenectady and learn of the people involved, some of who were past or present members of SARA. The meeting will be held at the Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria at 7:30PM, February 2, 2004. Talk-in is on the 147.06 MHz SARA repeater.

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## Upcoming Meetings

Monday, March 1, 2004.

Subject unavailable at press time.

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## From the Board

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

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Hudson, N2LBT at 7:10 PM December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Schenectady Police Station.

### Attendees:

President Dennis Hudson, N2LBT  
 Vice President Ramsay Seielstad, KC2GMW  
 Director Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR  
 Director Gerry Cramer, KE2JJ  
 Director Carl Lester, K2YR  
 Member Clark Gittinger, KG2AO  
 Member Raymond Wemple, KA2DVM

Minutes: Director Gittinger, KB2SWR made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in SARA news. Seconded by Vice President Seilstad. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Williams, supplied the report ahead of time. President Hudson presented the report to the board. Director Gittinger made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Director Cramer. Motion carried.

New Members: Dan Fiorillo-KC2MER, and Don Campbell-KC2MAS were presented and accepted at new members. Congratulations and welcome to the club.

Correspondence: Director Gittinger presented an article from a local newspaper thanking the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association for their assistance with the Niska-Day Parade.

Repeater Committee: Clark Gittinger reported that John Doblewski, N2OJY and Don Miller, W2EWY were nearly finished with a 6 Meter repeater and wanted to add it to the K2AE repeater system. All that was needed was the crystals for the 6 meter RX/TX and the 440 RX/TX link radios. Director Gittinger made a motion to reimburse the purchaser up to \$250 for the 6 meter repeater. Seconded by Director Lester. Motion Carried.

Public Service: No Report.

Newsletter: Clark Gittinger, KG2AO reported that the newsletter was on schedule. Thank you.

Membership: There was a discussion about writing new members welcoming them to the club. President Hudson will draft letter. Director Gittinger has letterhead template for club.

Public Relations: No Chair, we are still looking for a chair for this committee.

Programs: Vice President Seilstad reported he is still looking for

ideas for upcoming meetings. A number of ideas were discussed.

VE Sessions: No Report, there was a discussion that there was a successful session after Bob W2XM's class concluded in November.

RFI: No report.

Old Business: No tabled discussions.

### New Business:

President Hudson announced that the website maintained by Peter Brand, AB2BU was being moved to a new home to be hosted by Hudson's company, Zone 5. President Hudson paid the first year registration fee for the domain names of k2ae.org and k2ae.net. If the club decides to continue they can pay at their discretion.

Treasurer Williams wanted to know how much to sell the SARA patch for, price TBD.

A motion to adjourn was made by Director Gittinger at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by President Dennis Hudson

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**A Belated Thank You** from the *N-Cap Network* (publication of the Niskayuna Community Action Program):

### A Much Deserved Niska Day Thank You was Forgotten

Way back last year when we listed the many, many businesses and organizations that helped make Niska Day possible, we forgot to thank the **Schenectady Amateur Radio Association** (SARA). They have served as the communication for the parade for many years now under the leadership of Raleigh Keeter, K2RI.

This group is on the job early in the morning to help get the parade participants in the proper order and they move with the parade to be sure that units stay together. They are also there to serve in case of an emergency.

The Schenectady Amateur Radio Association provides many volunteer community services throughout the year, and we owe them a big thanks for everything.

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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.

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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

## ARRL TO PROPOSE NEW ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE, CODE-FREE HF ACCESS

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would grant HF phone privileges without a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement—now 5 WPM-only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals, put forth by the ARRL Executive Committee, were in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

“Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional,” said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee’s recommendations. “In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio’s “religious debate”. Harrison said the League’s proposal would provide “a true entry-level license with HF privileges” to promote growth in the Amateur Service

The League says its proposal would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in its Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000. A new entry-level license class—being called “Novice” for now—would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

“The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade,” said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The ARRL plan would grandfather current Novice licensees into the new entry-level class without further testing. The middle group of licensees—Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General—would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, and the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. “We’re trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that’s appropriate for the 21st century.”

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the “Novice refarming” plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands. The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See “ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access” on the ARRL Web site, <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>>, for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.

The amateur community and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the ARRL proposal once the League formally files a Petition for Rule Making and the FCC puts it on public notice.

From the ARRL Letter, Volumn 23, No. 04

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## 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.

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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).

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

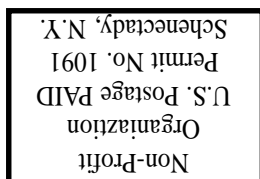
Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Signature\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

June, 2003

February, 2004



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