

# SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH  
AMATEUR RADIO"**

**FOUNDED 1930**

**K2AE REPEATERS**

<http://www.k2ae.org/>

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January, 2005

SARA General Meeting, January 3rd, 2005 at 6:30PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

## **Kit Building and Homebrewing for the Radio Amateur**

January's SARA meeting will explore the world of Equipment Homebrewing and Kit Building. Once building your own equipment was an essential part of being a ham, these days it is an optional but still fun and rewarding part of the hobby. Building our own equipment can take many forms, from constructing your own antennas, to building linear amplifiers and even building whole radios. In the UHF and microwave part of ham radio, to some degree, home equipment construction is very much a part of the hobby. Those who keep up on the latest "toys" for hams will know that even computer programming is part of equipment these days, through things like digital modes, digital signal processing and even "software defined" radios. In short, there is a wide range of ways to build some of your own equipment and the best way to get started is with modest projects. One of the best ways to get started is through kit building, long a ham tradition since the days of Heathkit and Eico, and it is still going strong. At this month's SARA meeting we will survey what is involved to start making some of your own equipment from kits or from scratch, as well as the tools and other resources you will need.

**ATTENTION HAM BUILDERS:** If you already have some ham gear you have built and would like to show off, please bring it along to the meeting. Big or small, every project is welcome. Nothing is as good as the feeling of

making contacts on the equipment you crafted with your own hands. And those who are just getting started in ham radio equipment building would love to know what is possible. So bring along your favorite ham gear project to show and tell about.

## **BAD WEATHER?**

SARA meetings on days when the Niskayuna High School is closed are normally cancelled. If the school is open in the evening, the meeting will be held. Check the SARA 147.06 Repeater and ask about the meeting if there are any questions. That will also be the place to find out if the meeting is going to be rescheduled.

## **RACES Nets**

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 Lower SSB

## **SARA Board Meeting**

The SARA Board meeting will be this coming Thursday, December 30th, 2004 at 7:00pm, Union College Campus, in the Lab Room N-106, next to the W2UC Room, N-106A. SARA Members and invited guests are welcome to attend, please RSVP to President Ramsey Seielstad [vze2n6jv@verizon.net](mailto:vze2n6jv@verizon.net) 377-2263.



## Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board Meeting December 2, 2004 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, at 7:00 PM in lab room N106 just outside the W2UC shack on the Union College Campus.

**Attendees:** President, Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW  
Vice-President, Dan Whelan, N2UD  
Treasurer, George Williams, W2CSN  
Secretary, Tim Long, W2UI  
Director, Carl Lester, K2YR  
Director, Paul Siemers, WY2F  
Director, Dennis Hudson, N2LBT  
Member, Raleigh Keeter, K2RI

**Minutes:** George Williams, W2CSN, made a motion to accept the minutes as published in SARA News. Dan Whelan, N2UD, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Tim Long, W2UI, reported that, since the last Board Meeting, we had received 1 monthly bank statement, a Verizon statement, 3 membership renewals, one new member application, a letter from State Farm that our Insurance Agent was changing, a reminder from the DMV to renew our trailer registration, a letter from the ARRL asking for donations to the Spectrum Defense Fund, a statement that our Safe Deposit Box rental fee is due, email correspondence from Rudy Dehn W2JVF, email correspondence from Bob Raffaele W2XM, and various club newsletters.

**Treasurer's Report:** George Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's Report. Dan Whelan, N2UD, made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Paul Siemers, WY2F, and it passed unanimously.

**New Members:** The new member application was from a student in Jay Freud's class who took and passed the exam at a SARA VE Session. No Board action was necessary. A total of 3 students from Jay's class passed their exams and are awaiting calls.

**Membership** The membership database query filters were changed to "2005". Dennis reported that we mailed 66 copies and emailed another 45 copies. Dennis noted that 44 were dropped due to the filter change.

**Public Service:** See the events listed in SARA News for planned upcoming events. No other events are planned. No new requests were received.

**Programs:** The November meeting will be Low Band Antennas and Skywave Propagation by Dan Whelan, N2UD. The December 6th meeting will be the traditional Holiday Festival and will start at 6:30PM. Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, has agreed to organize this program. Dan Whelan will compose a silent slide show of antique radios for entertainment.

**Public Relations:** No chairman. No report.

**Newsletter:** Dennis announced that the deadline for submittals is 1 week before the board meeting.

**RFI:** Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, emailed his report that there have been no problems and no complaints.

**Repeater Committee:** No report

**VE Sessions:** No requests received. The team will not conduct a test session prior to the December meeting.

**Anniversary Committee:** Email received from Bob Raffaele, W2XM, suggested that a possible venue for an Anniversary Dinner is the new Union College facility (former Ramada Inn). We discussed possible choices of - April or May?, in lieu of the regular meeting or in addition to?, Monday night at the same time?, etc. Dan Whelan will formalize the choices

**Constitution and By-Laws:** No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

## Tech Class and Morse Code Class offered

Amateur radio classes for the Tech License and for the 5 WPM morse code exam will be held at the Clifton Park Public Library. The instructor will be Jay Freud, K2QNU. The ARRL manual Now You Are Talking is a requirement for the Tech Class. The time is 7:30 on the following Tuesday evenings. The last Tuesday in January, all Tuesdays in February and the first Tuesday in March. The time for the Tech class is 7:00 PM. The morse code class is on all of the same evenings at from 6:00 - 7:00 PM.

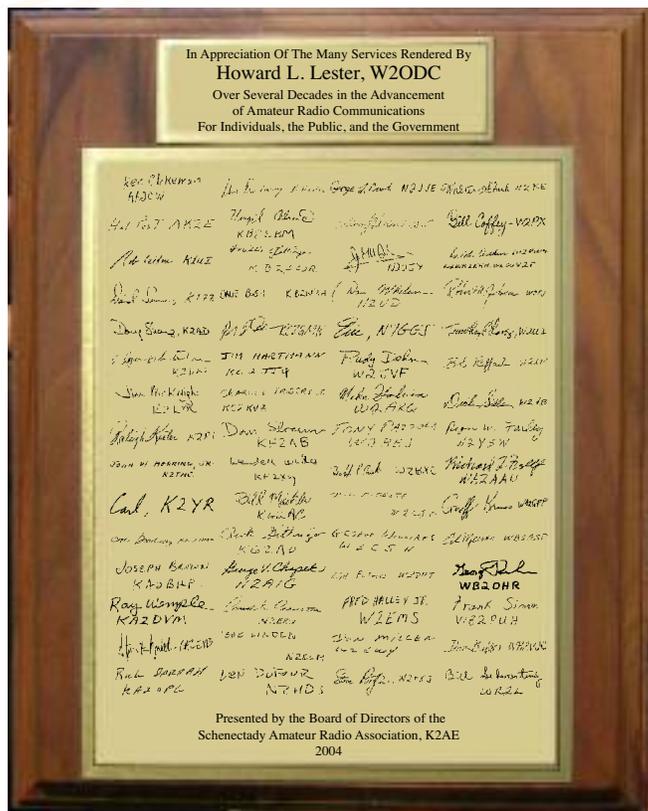
The morse code class is independent of the Tech class and it is open to both Tech upgraders and newbees. Morse code students are requested to think about the following teaching aides: MFJ morse code tudor, ARRL morse CD, and Gordon West morse code teaching CD's and tapes. A code oscillator is useful as well. Call the library at 371-8622 to register. Call Jay at 383 3421 if you have questions prior to registering.

# SARA NEWS

## Annual Holiday Meeting a Success

The annual Holiday Meeting of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association was held December 6 at the Price Chopper Community Room. This was celebrated with a potluck dinner and plenty of conversation among hams, their families and friends. The newly licensed hams were introduced and made members of the club.

Dan Whelan, N2UD provided talk and slides about all of the vintage radio equipment that was in use over the last 50 + years. The range of equipment was from home made to commercially produced transmitters and receivers.



At the conclusion of the dinner, Howard Lester was presented with an "Appreciation Plaque" for his many years of mentoring the radio community through training, public service including: many parades; Mohawk River flood watches and ice jams; emergency operations, and many equipment operation guidance and repairs. Well Done Howard and Ruth.



Photos courtesy of Dan Whelan, N2UD



## FCC'S RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO KEYNOTE HAM RADIO UNIVERSITY 2005

*From ARRL Letter*

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth will be the keynote speaker at the ARRL New York City/Long Island Section Convention and sixth annual Ham Radio University (HRU). The convention and HRU 2005 get under way Sunday, January 9, starting at 8 AM at Briarcliffe College, 1055 Stewart Ave, Bethpage, Long Island, New York.

A day of education about Amateur Radio, HRU 2005 will include forums geared to new and experienced radio amateurs alike. The focus will be "hands on," featuring demonstrations by experts in many areas including VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) authority Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, who will present a forum on EchoLink.

New this year are forums on "Urban Ham Radio" for those who live in neighborhoods that restrict antennas, and "Contest Station Ergonomics" with Mel Granick, KS2G, to help you set up your station for maximum comfort and performance. Other forums topics include satellite communication, low-power (QRP) operating and emergency communication.

An amateur Radio examination session will be held, and there will be a special event station on site.

HRU 2005 is sponsored by the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) in conjunction with the Briarcliffe College Amateur Radio Club and is a cooperative effort among more than 20 clubs and organizations in the New York City-Long Island area. Representatives will be on hand from various area Amateur Radio organizations and clubs as well as served agencies including the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the National Weather Service.

For more information, visit the HRU 2005 Web site <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/hru2005.htm>.

## MORSE REQUIREMENT, LICENSE RESTRUCTURING REMAIN ON FCC'S RADAR

The ARRL does not anticipate the FCC will offer up any proposals on the Morse requirement and further restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2005, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau continues to review thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including one from the ARRL.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

In addition to agreeing on other changes affecting Amateur Radio, World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), left the choice to require Morse proficiency for HF access up to individual countries, and several already have dropped Morse code as an examination requirement. That has not yet happened in the US.

Before the FCC adopts any changes in the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community based on comments received and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC then will review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. The ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Morse requirement or in other Amateur Radio licensing requirements before 2006, possibly later.

While this rule making process is under way, no changes have been made in the Amateur Radio Service rules. The 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to gain HF privileges in the US remains in place, and no proposed automatic upgrades or other rule changes have been put into effect. The ARRL has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring proposals

<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>.



**New 403 GHz DX record claimed:**

It seems that Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, just can't get enough gigahertz. He reports WA1ZMS/4 worked Pete Lascell, W4WWQ/4, December 21 on 403 GHz CW for a new DX record QSO of 1.4 km (0.87 mile). "Signals were very weak on the W4WWQ end, while several dB of margin existed on the WA1ZMS end," Justin reports. "The exchange had to be sent several times for W4WWQ to copy the CW by ear." The December 21 QSO exceeded the stations' former "best DX" on 403 GHz of 0.5 km (0.31 mile). It also "conquers the 1 km barrier for amateur frequencies above 400 GHz--except for visible light," he adds. Gear used (see photo) for the 403 GHz QSO was the same as that used for previous 241, 322 and 403 GHz QSOs. Justin has posted additional details, an audio file and a photo on the [Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force Web site](#).

**Thank You!**

A very big "Thank you" to all who helped to make the Holiday Party a success! A special thanks to George, W2CSN who arrived at the high school early only to discover that the school had closed at 3pm and the closure had not been put on their website, or was it announced on the radio (both of which he had checked). He immediately got on the air and by a miracle and the ingenuity of Ray, KA2DVM who found that the Price Chopper Community Room was available and that we could use it, we had a new venue.

Then George waited at the high school to tell those who hadn't been on the air where to go and left a sign on the door when he left.

When we found that our guest of honor, Howard, W20DC couldn't make it because of transportation difficulties, Bill, W2DHT and Bill, W2RL went to the rescue so that Howard could be there. Thanks also to all those who brought food or contributed money. A big "thanks" also to Dan, N2UD who provided a background of a power point projection of old time radio equipment and some real items to show as well. A good time was had by all.

Millie, KB2SWR, coordinator for party

**SWAP**

Attention All Hombrewers -There are parts available, such as composition resistors of various wattages, some electrolytic caps, 3 boxes of power transformers and filter chokes of different inductances, some air variable caps and some coils. All items are available for only nominal fees.

George, N2JJE 887-5019

FS: Crushcraft 3 element yagi. 10-15-20 meters - best offer  
Astron power supply 35 watts - best offer

Wendell KF2XY 371-2305

WANTED - Nixie tubes - any type, numeric or alphanumeric. Specifically interested in the large 14-segment Burroughs B-7971 Nixie tubes. Also looking for surplus or non-working equipment that contains Nixie tubes. Information or leads about possible sources of Nixie tubes is also desirable.

Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK, 370-2222 [saltzman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:saltzman@nycap.rr.com)



Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

Regular Dues	\$20.00	\$ _____
Spouse	\$5.00	\$ _____
Student	\$5.00	\$ _____
Repeater Donation		\$ _____
Initiation Fee	\$5.00*	\$ _____
<small>*New Members Only</small>		
Name _____	Call _____	
Nickname _____	Class _____	
Street _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
E-mail _____		
Phone _____	Signature _____	
ARRL _____	RACES _____	ARES _____ MARS _____

Send to SARA, PO Box 207, Alplaus, NY 12008-0207  
July, 2004 through June, 2005

## Board Of Directors

Pres: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW,  
[vze2n6jv@verizon.net](mailto:vze2n6jv@verizon.net) 377-2263  
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Paul Siemers, WY2F, [siemers@crd.ge.com](mailto:siemers@crd.ge.com) 371-0215

### Standing Committees

**SARA News:** Dennis Hudson, [n2lbt@n2lbt.com](mailto:n2lbt@n2lbt.com) 435-9730

**PIO:** We need a volunteer!

**Repeater:** Scott Krone, N2YCA  
[n2yca@nycap.rr.com](mailto:n2yca@nycap.rr.com) 273-1610

**K2AE:** Howard Lester, W2ODC [hlester@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hlester@nycap.rr.com)

**RFI:** Rudy Dehn, W2JVF [w2jvf@juno.com](mailto:w2jvf@juno.com) 372-6139

**Public Service:** Ken Clikeman, AA2CW  
[free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com](mailto:free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com) 861-6825

**VE Team:** Bill Mischler, KG2AC [kg2ac@juno.com](mailto:kg2ac@juno.com) 370-1350

## Activity Calendar

### January 2005

1st New Year's Day  
3rd Sara Meeting  
17th Martin Luther King's Day  
28-29 CQ WW 160M CW Contest

### February

4-5 Vermont QSO Party  
7th Sara Meeting  
14th Valentine's Day  
21st President's Day

### March

4-5 ARRL Int'l DX Contest, SSB  
7th Sara Meeting  
17th St. Patrick's Day

**VE Registration (518) 370-1350**