

SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH
AMATEUR RADIO"**

FOUNDED 1930

K2AE REPEATERS

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

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December, 2005

SARA Holiday Party, December 5th, 2005 at 6:30PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

2005 Holiday Party PotLuck

The upcoming meeting of SARA, Monday December 5th at 6:30pm, will be the club's Annual Holiday Party. The program will include goodies and refreshments as well as a visual program reviewing the events of the SARA 75th year activities as well as some ham gear of the past. Members are also encouraged to bring along any rigs or other "ham toys" that they may have (new or old) to show off to friends. This is a "pot luck" event so you may bring along something to share with the members or make a small donation to cover costs. Things like cookies, veggie platters and salads are typical and the club will provide beverages. If you wish to bring something please take a look at the SARA website <http://www.k2ae.org/> to see the list of what we might still be needing.

Please contact Clark & Millie, KG2AO/KB2SWR at 377-0671 or via email at gitting@crisny.org, or George, W2CSN, at 377-6188 or via email williamg@tardis.union.edu to let us know what items you may be bringing. Those providing a donation help cover the costs of beverages, plates, tableware, and party favors. REMEMBER, the meeting starts earlier at 6:30 PM this month since people may be hungry! This will also be the last event in our clubs 75th year, so be sure to be there to see some old friends and close out the year right! Monday, December 5, 2005, in the Niskayuna High School new cafeteria at 6:30PM.

Central Park Middle School Contacts International Space Station on Amateur Radio

On Wednesday November 23 middle school aged children from Central Park Middle School and several other schools in the City of Schenectady were on hand for a real-time conversation with the Astronauts on board the International Space Station. Amateur Radio was used to link from the Space Station in orbit over the west coast to a ham station there where the signal was connected by telephone bridge to the classroom.

The program is called ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) and is supported by ARRL and a variety of amateur groups and industry who work with NASA. The contact began just after Noon and lasted about 16 minutes before the Space Station passed out of range of the ham station on earth. In that time over a dozen students got to ask questions of International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR while about 70 other students, parents and visitors looked on. Coordinating the event was local teacher Rita Moore who has arranged for Central Park to become of the nations 100 NASA designated "Explorer Schools". The event prominently featured amateur radio and was carried on local TV news by Channel 9 Time Warner Cable News, WXXA (Fox 23) and WNYT (NBC 13), the event was also carried nationwide on the NASA Cable Channel.

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Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting November 2nd, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President, Dan Whelan, N2UD, at 7:04 PM in lab room N106 just outside the W2UC shack on the Union College Campus.

Attendees: President, Dan Whelan, N2UD
Vice-President, Hal Post, AK2E
Treasurer, George Williams, W2CSN
Secretary, Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW
Director, Joe Clement, K2UF
Director, Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK
Member, Rudy Dehn, W2JVF
Member, Raleigh Keeter, K2RI
Member, Tim Long, W2UI

Minutes: George Williams, W2CSN, made a motion to accept the minutes as we intend to publish them in SARA News. Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: George Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's Report. Hal Post, AK2E, made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Joe Clement, K2UF, and it passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Ramsay Seielstad, KC2GMW, reported that, since the last Board Meeting, we had received one Bank of America bank statement, two Verizon statements, the ARRL International DX Contest Plaque Sponsorship notice, 12 dues renewals, one inquiry from Dick Sisson, W5ONL, of the Packet Node Project and one Postal Service Postcard.

New Members: George Williams, W2CSN, reports none, but had received an email inquiring about membership in Schenectady Amateur Radio Association and mailed the appropriate information to the prospect.

Membership: No Report.

Public Service: Raleigh Keeter, K2RI, reports that the Stockadeathon is Sunday, November 13th, 2005 and anyone interested in volunteering, is welcome.

Programs: Hal Post, AK2E, reported that tentatively scheduled programs for May will be power supplies; June will be the Annual Business Meeting and preparation for Field Day. A topic to investigate as a suggested prospective presentation was made regarding Wireless Networks and networking, especially since most the frequencies used are in the amateur bands and are in use by amateurs in the Midwest and west coast for packet activities.

Public Relations: No Report.

Newsletter: Dennis Hudson, N2LBT, no report

RFI: Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, reported no current problems.

Repeater Committee: No Report.

VE Sessions: No Report.

Old Business: Committees – Peter Brand has notified Dan Whelan that he will resign as Webmaster effective December 31st, 2005 due to personal time constraints. It was not clear whether that

would include the hosting of the K2AE Website. Dan, N2UD, will follow up with Peter to obtain further specifics and a search will be started to find a replacement Webmaster.

Activities – Dan Whelan, N2UD, observed that there has always been some difficulty in filling committee vacancies and club activities. Recently this has become more difficult and that people have many more commitments vying for their time and attention.

It was proposed the Board members evaluate what our core activities are, what resources are available to fulfill these activities and how we might adjust those activities to better accommodate the resources we have available.

It was noted that this is not unique to SARA. Many organizations relying on volunteerism, such as Volunteer Fire services, Ambulance Squads and hobbyist clubs are all having similar experiences within their memberships and that it extends into various occupational situations as well.

Education – Dan, N2UD, recommended that one possible solution regarding having adequate resources to fulfill activities is increasing the membership pool to draw from. One avenue that has become notably absent in such outreach is that none of the schools in the area seem to have active amateur radio clubs for introducing youth to the service as was once prevalent.

A second pool available is the large number of licensed amateurs, that are inactive, in the area. It was suggested that, as a club, we look to providing some kind of outreach to both of these populations, possibly providing a scheduled program at the main county library.

Dan, N2UD, accepted taking the lead on this and is interested in having several people give short introductory information on a variety of radio related topics, rather than one or two people handling the entire program.

One item of concern is that those involved will need "coaching" on communicating with today's youth. There were no suggestions on whom the board might approach, that is actively involved in education or teaching at this time.

Holiday Party – Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, and Clark Gittinger, KG2AO, are the co-chairpersons, George, W2CSN is handling the web information. Please check the SARA Website, <http://www.k2ae.org/> and select the Potluck item that is your specialty and notify Millie, KB2SWR, or Clark, KG2AO, via email at gitting@crisny.org or 377-0671.

New Business: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that the Schenectady County Health Department will be conducting a drill on November 29th, 2005. The scenario will be an Avian Flu Pandemic and while details are still forthcoming, there will be approximately 11 to 12 sites in the country requiring staffing from amateur radio volunteers. Additional details to be announced as they become available or contact Tim Long, W2UI, via email tlong2@nycap.rr.com

George, W2CSN, made a motion to adjourn the board meeting, Hal, AK2E, seconded the motion and there were no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, Secretary



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Representing Amateur Radio and the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association was Raleigh Keeter K2RI and SARA President Dan Whelan N2UD. There were handouts on amateur radio and a display on ham radio and SARA's 75th year year. Raleigh and Dan answered questions about the hobby from students, parents, media and the faculty. Some of the faculty expressed interest in an after school program on amateur radio and how that might lead to interest in careers in science and engineering for the students, N2UD on behalf of SARA offered to assist them in the effort. Additional information about ARISS can be found on the www.nasa.gov or www.arrl.org/ARISS

2005 Skywarn Recognition Day

Skywarn Recognition Day 2005 will begin at 7:00 pm EST on Friday December 2nd, and end at 7pm EST on Saturday December 3rd. SRD is a Special Event co-sponsored by the ARRL and National Weather Service to celebrate the contributions of the amateur radio community to the SKY-WARN program nationwide. This year, nearly 100 NWS and Canadian Weather Service offices will participate.

WX2ALY, the amateur radio station at the National Weather Service office in Albany is planning on being on the air. We will operate HF, 10 through 80 meters, and are planning on running several local VHF/UHF nets as well, including Echolink and IRLP links. Contact format will include your call sign, name, QTH and brief weather report (i.e. "cloudy with light snow, 25 degrees, 2" of snow since 7pm").

For those amateurs near the Albany office, we are looking for operators. If you are interested in operating, please contact Steve, W2FXJ at w2fxj@aol.com or (518)435-9570 or Dennis, N2LBT at n2lbt@n2lbt.com or (518)435-9730

For more information before and during the event, including frequency plans and local net times and repeaters, please go to <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>



SWAP

Yaesu FT-757GXII

FS: YAESU FT – 757GX II (w/manual, cables and power supply) asking \$350.00 Call joe@k2uf.com 237-4999 (leave message) or cell 852-2345

Tower Sections

Used Rohn 25 @ \$40.00 and used Rohn 45 @ \$75.00
365-1384 John, N20JY john@leonardcommunications.com

Stockade-a-thon 2005

9 volunteers provided communications for this year's stockade-a-thon. Thanks to all that helped. K2RI, KC2GMW, AA2CW, W2CJO, KG2AO, W2SID, W2EMS, W2EWY, WB2FLX.



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, 2005 through June, 2006

Board Of Directors

President: Dan Whelan, N2UD n2ud@arrl.net 895-2754
VicePres: Hal Post, AK2E ak2e@arrl.net 584-6441
Sec: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW,
vze2n6jv@verizon.net 377-2263
Treas: George Williams, W2CSN,
williamg@tardis.union.edu 377-6188

Directors

Mike Adams, KB2KXC mta1649@yahoo.com 399-5726
Joe Clement, K2UF joe@k2uf.com 237-4999
Rudy Dehn, W2JVF w2jvf@juno.com 372-6139
Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK saltzman@nycap.rr.com 370-2222

Standing Committees

SARA News: Dennis Hudson, n2lbt@n2lbt.com 435-9730
PIO: We need a volunteer!
Rptr: Scott Krone, N2YCA n2yca@nycap.rr.com 273-1610
K2AE: Howard Lester, W2ODC hlester@nycap.rr.com
RFI: Rudy Dehn, W2JVF w2jvf@juno.com 372-6139
Public Service: Ken Clikeman, AA2CW
free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com 861-6825
VE Team: Bill Mischler, KG2AC kg2ac@juno.com 370-1350

VE Registration (518) 370-1350

Activity Calendar

December

2-4 [ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#)
5 [SARA Meeting - Holiday Party](#)
10-11 [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#)

January

1 [Straight Key Night](#)
9 [SARA Meeting](#)
21-23 [ARRL VHF Contest](#)

February

5-6 [Vermont QSO Party](#)
6 [SARA Meeting](#)
18-19 [ARRL CW DX Contest](#)

Sunday SCESN Nets

12:30PM - K2AE 53.57 repeater
1:00 PM - K2AE 444.200 repeater
1:30 PM - K2AE 147.060 repeater
2:00 PM - 3953 KHz, 75 Meter Lower SSB

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 207 • Alplaus, NY 12008

