

# SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH  
AMATEUR RADIO"**

**FOUNDED 1930**

**K2AE REPEATERS**

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

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January, 2006

SARA General Meeting, January 9th, 2005 at 7:00PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

## **Improving Your Stations VHF/UHF Performance**

The January SARA meeting will be a presentation on how to improve your station's ability to make contacts on VHF and UHF. Nearly every ham operates on the VHF or UHF bands at some time or another and this will discuss what you can do to make the difference between a solid contact and a missed one. This presentation will not only cover routine 2 meter operation but it will show you some of the techniques that will allow you to make 200+ mile contacts on SSB without band openings and even 100+ mile contacts on FM without using a repeater. Lots of topics will be covered including differences in bands, modes, antennas, feedlines, power levels, amplifiers, mountain-topping, home station operation, mobile operation and most important of all, how to improve your signal on a budget. No matter whether you have been a ham for 20 days or 20 years this discussion will give you some ideas and help guide your choices to improve your signal. This presentation will also provide plans for building some very inexpensive, but high performance and easy to build VHF/UHF beam antennas. Whether for VHF contesting, "mountain-topping with an HT" or just for keeping in touch with friends; long haul VHF/UHF can be a lot of fun. Presenting will be Dan Whelan N2UD long time VHF/UHF+ operator.

SARA meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the new cafeteria to the right and in the rear of the Niskayuna High School. You are reminded that there is no smoking in or around any school buildings. Also in the event of bad weather and Niskayuna Schools are closed, the SARA meeting will be cancelled for that night unless otherwise advised. Check the K2AE SARA 147.06 repeater for information.

P.S. By coincidence the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contest is coming up starting at 2 pm Saturday January 22 through Sunday night at 11pm January 23. Go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) to get more details.

## **RACES Drill**

The Schenectady South Station Firehouse on Duanesburg Road and the Thomas Corners Firehouse on Airport Road in Glensville both became the practice vaccination sites for a bird flu pandemic on Tuesday, November 29th. Real flu inoculations were given to first responders instead. The Schenectady County Public Health Department wanted to see if their vaccinators could sustain a rate of 125 inoculations per hour. That's their estimate of what would be required if a bird flu pandemic developed and they were called upon to inoculate all Schenectady County residents. They fell way short of their goal, not for the skill of

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## Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board Meeting November 30th, 2005

President Dan Whelan, N2UD, polled Board members via email prior to the November 30th, 2005 Board Meeting. At that time there were only routine, budgeted expenditures and no new business had been presented requiring action by the Board.

President Dan Whelan, N2UD, subsequently determined that there was no need for a Board Meeting to be held on November 30th, 2005, prior to the Holiday Party meeting on Monday, December 5th, 2005. The related email was distributed to all current SARA Board members and there were no objections presented.

**Correspondence:** Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, reports since the last Board Meeting, we had received dues renewals, the First National Bank of Scotia Safe Deposit Box renewal, a Bank of America Statement, the Squelch Tale and two miscellaneous items of correspondence.

**Correction:** Secretary Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, reports that in the minutes of the November 2nd, 2005 Board Meeting, Rudy Dehn, W2JVF was incorrectly listed a Member attending the meeting. Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, is a Director for the 2005/2006 business year and I extend my apologies to Rudy for my oversight.

Respectfully submitted, Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW,  
Secretary

*RACES Drill continued from page 1*

the shot givers, but for the lack of patients.

The Schenectady County Emergency Manager, Bill Van Hosen, invited RACES to provide their communications. We established stations at the EOC, the Schenectady County Public Health Department Headquarters in the Schaefer Heights Building, at the Schenectady South Station Firehouse, and at the Thomas Corners Firehouse. We had 10 times the communications capability that the

situation demanded but it gave everyone the opportunity to practice and learn procedures. The following hams participated: Ramsay KC2GMW, Clark KG2AO, Millie KB2SWR, Tony W2BEJ, Kevin KC2GCY, Ed KC2NMY, Fred W2EMS, Jay K2QNU, Mike KC2LJV, Raleigh K2RI, and Tim W2UI. Thanks to all that participated. We hope there are many opportunities to practice before a real one. 73 de Tim, W2UI

## The January VHF Sweepstakes

If you haven't operated a VHF contest before you may want to try your hand in the January VHF Sweepstakes the weekend of January 22-24, 2005. The contest begins at 1900 UTC (2 pm EST) Saturday and ends 0400 UTC Monday (11 pm EST Sunday night). If you are new to VHF contesting all you need to operate is a 2 meter FM rig and a reasonable home or mobile antenna. All VHF contests make use of direct simplex contacts (no repeaters) on FM, SSB or CW. On FM you must use designated simplex frequencies, the most popular ones being 146.49, 146.55 and 146.58. Use of repeater frequencies or the 2 meter national calling frequency 146.52 is not allowed. On other bands the FM calling frequencies may be used 52.525, 223.5, 446.0 and SSB operation can be found around 50.150, 144.200 and 432.100. The contact requires the exchange of your operating "grid square". (See the next item for how to find your grid square.) You may operate from a fixed location by using your call and grid square. You may also operate while mobile by designating your transmissions as "rover" plus the grid square you are in at the time. It is permissible to contact a rover station once per band within each grid square it operates. The detailed rules for the January VHF contest can be found on the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## What "Grid Square" Am I In?

The grid square you operate in is an essential part of your signal exchange in VHF/UHF contests. Grid squares are a rather large rectangle of geography which is 2 degrees of Longitude by 1 degree of Latitude. That is roughly 100 by 68 miles in size. There are four grid squares that cover



the entire greater Capital District region: FN 22, FN23, FN32 and FN33.

FN-32 Covers the City of Schenectady, eastern half of Rotterdam, Glenville, Clifton Park, Troy, Albany and south to around Saugerties and it goes east to include about half of the state of Massachusetts to roughly Sturbridge MA and North Bennington VT. On the north FN32 is bounded by 43 degrees Latitude which cuts through the center of Ballston Spa and Saratoga Battlefield. On the west it is bounded by 74 degrees Longitude which runs north-south roughly from the Thatcher Park Overlook north to about a mile east of Thruway Exit 25A (I88) on the west side of Rotterdam north to just east of Lake Nancy in Saratoga County.

FN22 Is west of FN32 and covers Duaneburg, Princetown, the village of Altamont, Schoharie, Amsterdam, Cooperstown, East Durham, Oneonta, Binghamton etc. The northern boundry of FN32 and FN 22 runs east-west and is at 43 degrees Latitude which roughly cuts through the Saratoga Battlefield and the middle of Ballston Spa and west to Fulton County Airport.

FN33 is north of FN32 and covers the north side of Ballston Spa, Saratoga, Glensfalls, Hudson Falls, Warrensburg, Lake George and Ticonderoga. It also covers Shaftsbury VT, Lebanon NH and

FN 23 is directly north of FN22 and west of FN33. It includes most of Johnstown, Northville, Wells and Broadalbin are in FN23 which is directly north of FN22. It also covers Indian Lake, Long Lake, Lake Pleasant, Newcomb, Utica, Rome and Watertown. The above information should give you a rough idea what grid you are in.

For more accurate determination of grid squares you can use a detailed topographic Map or if you are "on the move" in a contest a GPS unit can be invaluable. /Dan N2UD

**SWAP**

**Yaesu FT-757GXII**

FS: YAESU FT – 757GX II (w/manual, cables and power supply) asking \$350.00 Call [joe@k2uf.com](mailto: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](mailto:john@leonardcommunications.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, 2005 through June, 2006

## Board Of Directors

President: Dan Whelan, N2UD [n2ud@arrl.net](mailto:n2ud@arrl.net) 895-2754  
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### Standing Committees

**SARA News:** Dennis Hudson, [n2lbt@n2lbt.com](mailto:n2lbt@n2lbt.com) 435-9730  
**PIO:** We need a volunteer!  
**Rptr:** Scott Krone, N2YCA [n2yca@nycap.rr.com](mailto:n2yca@nycap.rr.com) 273-1610  
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**VE Team:** Bill Mischler, KG2AC [kg2ac@juno.com](mailto:kg2ac@juno.com) 370-1350

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

## Activity Calendar

### January

9 SARA Meeting  
21-23 ARRL VHF Contest

### February

5-6 Vermont QSO Party  
6 SARA Meeting  
18-19 ARRL CW DX Contest

### March

4-5 ARRL Phone DX Contest  
6 SARA Meeting

### 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