

# SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH  
AMATEUR RADIO"**

**FOUNDED 1930**

**K2AE REPEATERS**

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

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February, 2006

SARA General Meeting, February 6th, 2006 at 7:00PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

## Emergency Communications

Our scheduled guest speaker is Lee Palmer WB2NSC. His presentation will be on emergency communications. This will be a group involvement demonstration. We would like everyone to bring a 2M Hand Held. Lee has been involved in the 911 systems, former Saratoga R.A.C.E.S. Radio officer, and has been in Ham Radio for a long time.

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.

## Board Meeting

The next meeting of the SARA Board will be this coming Wednesday February 1st, 2006 at the Niskayuna H.S. in one of the classrooms around the corner from where we regularly meet in the new cafeteria. The time will be 7 P.M. SARA Members and invited guests are welcome to attend, please RSVP to President Dan Whelan [n2ud@arrl.net](mailto:n2ud@arrl.net) 895-2754.

## SUITSAT

*From the NASA website (edited by N2UD)*

One of the strangest satellites in the history of the space age is about to go into orbit. Launch date: Feb. 3rd. That's when astronauts onboard the International Space Station (ISS) will hurl an empty spacesuit overboard. The spacesuit is the satellite "SuitSat" for short. "SuitSat is a Russian brainstorm," explains Frank Bauer of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. "Some of our Russian partners in the ISS program, mainly a group led by Sergey Samburov, had an idea: Maybe we can turn old spacesuits into useful satellites." SuitSat is a first test of that idea. SuitSat can be heard by anyone on the ground. "All you need is an antenna (the bigger the better) and a radio receiver that you can tune to 145.990 MHz FM," says Bauer.

Note: In the Schenectady area the ISS and "Suitsat" may be receivable around these times but check the [NASA Website](#) for exact times or changes: Feb 3 - 510 am; Feb 4 ? 4:20 am; Feb 5 ? 4:00 am; Feb 8 -7:10 am; Feb 10 ? 6:10 am; Feb 11 ? 6:50 am

Use [Science@NASA's J-Pass](#) utility to find out exact times. Because the ISS and SuitSat share similar orbits, predictions for one will serve for the other. There is about a 5-to-10 minute flyby," advises Bauer, and this is what you'll hear: SuitSat transmits for 30 seconds, pauses

*Suitsat continued on page 3*



## Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board Meeting January 4th, 2006 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, Dan Whelan, N2UD, at 7:00 PM in a classroom near the New Cafeteria, room number unknown, at Niskayuna High School.

**Minutes:** Secretary Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, read the December Minutes as submitted for publication in SARA News. George Williams, W2CSN, made a motion to accept the minutes. Hal Post, AK2E, 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 Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, and it passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, reported that, since the last Board Meeting, we had received the one renewal, a Bank of America statement, a Verizon statement and a solicitation from Deluxe Business Checks.

**New Members:** George Williams, W2CSN, reported that John Ferarri, WA2LUE, a Union College Student had applied for membership and included a check for dues. The Board and SARA welcome John, WA2LUE to the club.

**Programs:** Hal Post, AK2E, reported that the January 2006 program will be Dan Whelan, N2UD, and will discuss station improvements.

**Newsletter:** Dennis Hudson, N2LBT, provided Dan Whelan, N2UD, a report that he mailed 76 SARA News via the USPS and emailed another 52 copies.

**RFI:** Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, reported no interference complaints so far.

**Old Business:** Dan Whelan, N2UD, reports that the Holiday Party was an enjoyable evening and well attended. George Williams, W2CSN, also reported that the expenses for the event were less than anticipated and a small surplus was the result.

Dan Whelan, N2UD, reports that Dennis Hudson, N2LBT, has taken over maintenance of the SARA website, [www.k2ae.org](http://www.k2ae.org) in addition to his newsletter responsibilities.

**New Business:** Dan Whelan, N2UD, reminded Board Members that we should begin considering formation of the nominating committee for the upcoming elections at the June Business Meeting. Members interested should contact Dan.

Dan Whelan, N2UD, presented to the board the reminder that postage rates were rising January 8th. Dan also noted that the Postal Rate Commission had also alluded that there may be another postage increase considered within the next couple of years. Dan noted that of the 76 SARA newsletters mailed this month, 49 of the recipients have email addresses and could receive the newsletter via that method.

Dan proposed that as postage costs rise, Board members will need to consider at some future time whether to absorb the addition postage costs without increasing dues, increasing dues to cover the increased postage costs or to provide an incentive to members electing to receive the newsletter via email and not raising dues for all members.

Dan Whelan, N2UD, also reported that he has received some complaints about the newsletter not being received by a few members. Dan, N2UD, researched the reports and determined the source of problem is not clearly able to be identified. Dan, N2UD, directed that in an attempt to identify the source of the problem, the Board should audit the membership database. Dan, N2UD, directed the Secretary, Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, obtain a complete copy of the membership database from Tim Long, W2UI, and begin the audit and provide a copy of the data and the results of the audit to him.

A complaint was received from Howard Friedman, WA2AFD, about the use of derogatory language on the repeater on December 29th, 2005. Dan Whelan, N2UD, will contact Howard and follow up on the details of the complaint. Dan will also contact the repeater control operators about being more vigilant about monitoring the repeater and taking the appropriate measures.

Bob Raffaele, W2XM, forwarded an email offering a suggestion that the membership meetings would be more attractive if beverages were provided. Discussions determined that to obtain access to the coffee maker at Niskayuna High is difficult, that we become obligated to clean up after the meeting, that we have noted a lack of volunteers stepping forward to fulfill vacancies, that members have access to vending machines in the cafeteria for carbonated beverages and water as well as a Starbuck's Coffee shop at St. James Plaza next to the high school and the expenditures, on a regular basis, to provide a majority of the membership with a variety of bever-

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ages can be a significant budgetary expense.

It was determined that since no budget item was adopted for regular expenditures on refreshments and no volunteers seem available to accept the responsibilities of providing and preparing refreshments, and cleaning up after the meeting, the matter was tabled.

Hal Post, AK2E, suggested that there is a need for a small Public Address system for the meetings. Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, reported that the school can provide a podium with the capabilities but that advance notice is required and the reliability of school personnel having the equipment present for the meeting has not been good in the past.

Dan Whelan, N2UD, has volunteered to bring a small system, he has access to, to test the functionality at meetings. If the performance is satisfactory, the board will consider at a future time to purchase a similar system for the club.

Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW, reported that Ray Rivet had sent a letter indicating he had various older radio media and equipment in storage and was offering the club the opportunity to evaluate and take possession of items of interest. Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, volunteered to evaluate the items and determine the club's interest in the offered items or provide alternative avenues to make the items available to other amateurs who might be interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ramsay D. Seielstad, KC2GMW,  
Secretary

*Suitsat continued from page 1*

for 30 seconds, and then repeats. "This is SuitSat-1, RSORS," the transmission begins, followed by a prerecorded greeting in five languages. The greeting contains "special words" in English, French, Japanese, Russian, German and Spanish for students to record and decipher.

Next comes telemetry: temperature, battery power, mission elapsed time. "The telemetry is stated in plain language?in English," says Bauer. Everyone will be privy to SuitSat's condition. Bauer adds, "Suitsat 'talks' using a voice synthesizer. It's pretty amazing." The transmission ends with a Slow Scan TV picture. Of what? "We're not telling," laughs Bauer. "It's a mystery picture."

Bauer expects SuitSat's batteries to last 2 to 4 days. "Although longer is possible," he allows. After that, SuitSat will begin a slow silent spiral into Earth's atmosphere. Weeks or months later, no one knows exactly when, it will become a brilliant fireball over some part of Earth. A fitting end for a trailblazer. For more information see [www.suitsat.org](http://www.suitsat.org)

## 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  
VicePres: Hal Post, AK2E [ak2e@arrl.net](mailto:ak2e@arrl.net) 584-6441  
Sec: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW,  
[vze2n6jv@verizon.net](mailto:vze2n6jv@verizon.net) 377-2263  
Treas: George Williams, W2CSN,  
[williamg@tardis.union.edu](mailto:williamg@tardis.union.edu) 377-6188

### Directors

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

### 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  
**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

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

## Activity Calendar

### February

5-6 Vermont QSO Party  
6 SARA Meeting  
11 GRAM Hamfest, Batavia  
13-17 School Club Roundup  
18-19 ARRL CW DX Contest  
25 ARAST Hamfest-Horseheads, NY

### March

4-5 ARRL Phone DX Contest  
5 Lancaster ARC Hamfest - Williamsville, NY  
6 SARA Meeting  
18 Orange Co. ARC Hamfest New Windsor NY  
26 Spring Flea Market, Framingham, MA

### 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

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