

# SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH  
AMATEUR RADIO"**

**FOUNDED 1930**

**K2AE REPEATERS**

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

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November, 2006

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

## **Rob Leiden K1UI on History of WCC Ship to Shore Station on Cape Cod**

Rob Leiden, K1UI ex-KR2L, will give a presentation about the history of WCC, the RCA Radiomarine Corporation Ship-to-Shore Radio Station in Chatham on Cape Cod and the efforts now underway to create a radio museum and amateur radio station in the station operations building. There are five tunable HF rhombic antennas on the property as well as two log periodic antennas for HF and several Marconi T-type antennas. The WA1WCC team expects to use some of these for operating once the museum is open and is already using the T-type antenna for special events. Rob is looking forward to seeing many of the friends in SARA that he still talks to regularly on the air from a few miles away from the WCC site.

## **Sympathy to Hal Post AK2E on the loss of his son Patrick**

It is with sadness that we express our sympathy on behalf of our members to our SARA President Hal Post AK2E regarding the loss of his son Patrick L. Post, 21, of Watertown who died Sunday October 9, 2006.

Contributions may be made to the Aden Post Trust Fund, c/o the Northern Federal Credit Union, 1180 Commerce Park, Watertown, NY 13601.

## **ARRL Scholarships & SARA Sponsored Broughton Scholarship**

The SARA Board of Directors wants to remind all of our members to pass the word along to family and others that the ARRL offers dozens of college scholarships to licensed hams who are planning to attend an accredited college or university for undergraduate or graduate level programs. The main requirements to be considered is to have an FCC ham license and to submit an application to ARRL. Typically these scholarships are for \$1000 a year or more and some are earmarked for certain areas of the country and many times there is little competition for qualified ham applicants. Among the many scholarships is the Broughton K2AE Scholarship sponsored by SARA which is applied for through the ARRL. For those of you with young people in the family who have thought about becoming hams this is just one more reason to consider taking the plunge and getting a ham ticket. The application deadline for Fall 2007 is this coming February 1st. Details about all of the ARRL scholarships, applications and procedures can be found at the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen.html>

## **Public Service**

Stockade-athon - November 12th 2006 9:30am  
Please contact [Ken Clikeman](#) at 861-6825 to volunteer.  
Meet at McDonald's on Union St. at 9:30am



## Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board Meeting, October 11, 2006

### Attendees:

President, Hal Post, AK2E  
Vice President, Hal Post, N2UD  
Treasurer, George Williams, W2CSN  
Secretary, Rudy Dehn, W2JVF  
Director, Frank Simon, WB2PUH  
Director, Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK  
Director, Jim Stewart, K2PK

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the September were approved as written. Several renewals of membership were received.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income and expenditures are on target with respect to the budget approved last month.

**Programs:** Confirmation was received from Rob Leiden to speak about the Marconi museum on Cape Cod at the November meeting. Members of SARA are urged to make any suggestions for future programs.

**Old Business:** Options for recovering some of the costs of mailing SARA NEWS rather than distribution via E-mail were discussed. One possibility is a future surcharge on dues for printing and mailing. No final action is anticipated for this year which ends June 2007.

**Broughton Scholarship :** The qualifications for receiving this scholarship were broadened to include licensed amateurs who are taking science or technology courses leading to a degree or certificate from an accredited two or four year institution. Preference continues to be for candidates within a 60 mile radius of Schenectady.

**Name Badges :** Dan Whelan offered to generate badges for SARA officers by the November meeting.

**SARA 77TH Anniversary Event Station :** No specific plans yet. The board is seeking a chair person to help organize this event for April 2007.

Respectfully submitted by Rudy Dehn, W2JVF

## FCC "OMNIBUS" REPORT AND ORDER

*(Excerpt from the ARRL Letter Oct. 20, 2006)*

The FCC's recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 seems to offer something for just about every sector of the Amateur Radio community, but it's not without shortcomings. Most appear to be unintended consequences stemming from the FCC's arguably too-generous allocation of 75 meter phone spectrum to Amateur Extra class licensees. The FCC indicated it was only doing what the ham radio community said it wanted. "Indeed, a number of commenter's argue that the NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) proposal to increase the amount of spectrum permitted for voice communications would still not meet the demand for voice communication in the HF bands, particularly in the 80 meter band," the FCC said in the R&O, released October 10.

Once the new rules go into effect, the 75 meter phone band will span 3800 to 4000 kHz for Generals, 3700 to 4000 kHz for Advanced class licensees (ARRL had requested 3750 to 4000 kHz), and 3600 to 4000 kHz for Amateur Extras (ARRL had requested 3725 to 4000 kHz). Far more modest phone expansions were the rule for 40 and 15 meters, the other affected bands. But the ample 75 meter Amateur Extra class phone allocation not only effectively reduces the amount of 80-meter spectrum available for CW, RTTY and data, it actually eliminates Advanced and General class access on any mode to certain segments where they now have privileges.

Sensitive to fallout from the "incentive licensing" debacle of the late 1960s, the FCC in the past has indicated it wouldn't let that kind of thing happen again. In the run-up to the April 2000 license restructuring, the FCC assured that any pending changes would not take away any incumbent licensee's privileges, and it carefully avoided doing so in its restructuring R&O. In applauding the ARRL's "refarming" proposal in this docket's NPRM, the FCC pointed out that "as proposed, no licensees would lose any spectrum privileges." Nonetheless that's just what happened: Generals lose 150 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 80 meters but gain 50 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They also lose 25 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 50 kHz of phone privileges on that band. Factoring in another 25 kHz of phone spectrum on 15 meters that's an overall gain of 125 kHz of phone spectrum offset by an overall loss of 175 kHz



of CW/data spectrum -- or a net loss of 50 kHz in spectrum privileges. Advanced licensees also lose 150 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 80 meters but gain 75 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They also lose 25 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 25 kHz of phone spectrum there. That's an overall loss of 175 kHz of CW/data spectrum offset by an overall gain of 100 kHz of phone spectrum (25 kHz less than Generals). The net loss in Advanced privileges works out to 75 kHz (25 kHz greater than Generals).

The new rules are "nothing but net" for Novice and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees. These licensees take home a whopping 250 kHz of additional CW spectrum (CW/data on 10 meters). The R&O contains several apparent mistakes, too. For example, in §97.301(d) the 80 meter row should read 3.525-3.600 MHz for all three ITU regions. In §97.305(c), the frequencies in the first line for 40 meters should read 7.000-7.100 MHz. The FCC will fix these errors when the "official" R&O text appears in the Federal Register later this fall. Other corrections may prove more troublesome. Creating a humongous 75 meter phone band for Extras effectively, but apparently inadvertently, deleted the only 80 meter segment where automatically controlled digital stations may operate -- 3620 to 3635 kHz. The new rules no longer permit RTTY and data there, however. - For further details and corrections check the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

**New York Public Service Commission Recognizes BPL Interference Concerns**

*(Excerpted from ARRL Letter Oct. 20, 2006)*

The New York Public Service Commission (NYPSC) <http://www.dps.state.ny.us/> this week adopted a policy statement on deployment of BPL systems in the Empire State. While asserting that BPL technology "may provide significant benefits to New Yorkers," the commission also has acknowledged that BPL "poses a myriad of both traditional and unique technical and regulatory challenges." The policy statement, issued and effective October 18, says that while most BPL providers, equipment makers and vendors believe the FCC's Part 15 rules address interference issues that was not the consensus opinion of those who commented to the Commission. "Most parties were uneasy about potential interference problems that could arise with the deployment of BPL technology," the NYPSC policy state-

ment pointed out, citing RF interference as "a major issue."

The NYPSC policy affirmed its decision that electric utilities should not be BPL providers. Utility Consolidated Edison still operates a BPL trial system in the Westchester County community of Briarcliff Manor that has been the target of BPL interference complaints from radio amateurs. The policy puts primary responsibility for RFI on the BPL provider, who, under the NYPSC model, would lease access to the electric utility's grid. "The BPL provider is primarily responsible for responding to all customer service and collateral service complaints and issues, including any related to interference produced by BPL equipment," the policy statement says.

**Reminder SARA Dues are Due**

All of SARA's activities are funded by the club dues which follow our September to June meeting schedule so we are nearing the middle of the club's year and it is time to make sure you are up to date. Use the form on the last page of SARA News or see our SARA Treasurer George Williams W2CSN at the meeting.



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, 2006 through June, 2007

## Board Of Directors

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### Standing Committees

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

## Activity Calendar

### November

4-6 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)  
6 SARA Meeting  
11-12 ARRL International EME Competition  
11-12 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)  
11-12 ARRL International EME Competition

### December

1-3 ARRL 160 Meter Contest  
4 SARA Meeting  
9-10 ARRL 10 Meter 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