

# SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH  
AMATEUR RADIO"**

**FOUNDED 1930**

**K2AE REPEATERS**

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

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January, 2007

SARA General Meeting, Monday January 8th , 2007 at 7:00PM, Niskayuna High School Cafeteria

## **Field Days Revisited.**

Our guest speaker this month will be our own George Williams, WB2CSN. George will present some of SARA's early field day efforts through pictures and verbal display. Come and see the difference in setup, equipment, and operation between then and now. George will use material passed on to him by the first WB2CSN.

The meeting will be at 7 PM at the Niskayuna High School in the new cafeteria toward the rear of the building. Use the parking to the right and toward the rear of the school as you come in from Balltown Road.

## **FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes**

*From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT December 16, 2006*

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission today adopted a Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. In a break from typical practice, the FCC only issued a public notice at or about the close of business and not the actual Report and Order, so some details, including the effective date of the R&O, remain uncertain. The public notice is located at

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-269012A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-269012A1.pdf).

"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio," the FCC said. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants only. The FCC proposed earlier to drop the requirement across the board, however, and it held to that decision in today's R&O.

Perhaps more important, the FCC's action in WT Docket 05-235 appears to put all Technician licensees on an equal footing: Once the R&O goes into effect, holders of Technician class licenses will have equivalent HF privileges, whether or not they've passed the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse examination. The FCC said the R&O in the Morse code docket would eliminate a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician and Technician Plus class licensees. Technician licensees without Element 1 credit (ie, Tech Plus licensees) currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz.

"With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained," the FCC said in its public notice. "Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."



## Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board Meeting, December 2006

### Attendees:

President, Hal Post, AK2E  
Treasurer, George Williams, W2CSN  
Secretary, Rudy Dehn, W2JVF  
Director, Bill Mischler, KG2AC  
Director, Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK  
Director, Frank Simon, WB2PUH  
Director, Jim Stewart, K2PK

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Income and expenditures are on target.

### Old Business :

**Broughton Scholarship:** Letter to ARRL delineating change of categories of qualified institutions is still in the works.

**SARA Database:** Bob, WB2ARK, has agreed to translate the present database from ACCESS to EXCEL with some reformatting in order to make it more accessible.

**Programs:** Programs for January through April 2007 are essentially finalized. January meeting will feature a video from ICOM.

**SARA 77TH Anniversary Event Station:** The special event is now scheduled for Sunday, April 22, 2007, 7AM to 5 PM, (EST), 80 - 10 M, CW and SSB. SARA members to operate from home QTH. Hal Post is coordinating skeds for operators.

**Field Day:** Preliminary plans are under way in order to avoid last minute crunch. The board is seeking a member volunteer to coordinate the activities.

**New Business :** No new business items were considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Rudy Dehn, W2JVF

## SARA Special Operating Event on April 22, 2007

SARA will have an on the air special operating event celebrating the 77 Club anniversary. We are looking for large membership participation. Members who do not enjoy their own operating facility (Ham Shack) are encouraged to use another ham's station as a guest operator. The same goes for those whom have a Novice or Tech privileges. Participants will use the club call sign K2AE. We will provide a brief written description of SARA's history.

We will endeavor to work on cw and phone on each Band i.e. 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Actual operating frequencies will be chosen in accordance with the new frequency/band plan to go into effect on 15 Dec 2006. The number of participants will determine the duration of the event. We are trying to operate from 7AM to 5PM. This will give all the states and some dx stations a chance of contacting us.

AK2E has volunteered to coordinate the event. He can be contacted by email [ak2e@arrl.net](mailto:ak2e@arrl.net). (Please include special event in subject line) or by phone at 518-584-6441. If you have a preference of time, band, mode, or have a station available for use by a guest operator, or want to be a guest operator please contact Hal. This is a fun event giving all members a chance to get on the air for a common cause, get to learn HF operating procedures, and get to know your fellow club members.

### Ham radio enthusiasts come in loud and clear Largest amateur group in region is ready to respond to emergencies

*reprinted without permission from the Times Union  
by DAN HIGGINS, Staff writer  
First published: Saturday, December 30, 2006*

SCHENECTADY -- Most mornings, the topic of conversation crackling over the airwaves is mundane: How's the weather in northern Canada? How's your family in Australia? But when the power goes out, said Hal Post, "That's when the fun begins."

Post, of Middle Grove, is the president of the Schenectady

# SARA NEWS

Amateur Radio Association, a group of 100 or so volunteers who literally watch the skies and keep their battery-operated radios on the air in the event of an emergency. SARA is the largest and most active amateur radio group in the Capital Region.

The club dates to 1930, almost as old as radio itself. The 100th anniversary of the first voice radio broadcast was Dec. 24. On Christmas Eve 1906, Canadian Reginald Fessenden broadcast a program of Christmas music and Bible readings to ships at sea.

While it was on the cutting edge then, the technology is still relevant today, according to local "hams," as amateur radio operators call themselves.

"When there's no power, no phone lines, no Internet, we can still get through," Post said. Hams are still called on to relay emergency information to police, fire and ambulance crews whenever there is widespread disaster.

The most recent examples included Hurricane Katrina and the 9/11 attacks. Both catastrophes saw volunteers from the Capital Region head to the affected areas to help with communication, broadcasting information on emergency shelters, and to help emergency crews speak to each other when the first responders' own radios weren't working.

Public service is a requirement of having an amateur radio license, and the radio operators frequently practice their skills, holding drills and field days where operators use portable radios to make contact with local command posts, as well as with other operators around the country.

The radios are an important resource to have when all else fails, said Daniel Fiorillo, who was Schenectady County's emergency services coordinator until his retirement last year.

"We've had them monitoring the river level on several occasions," Fiorillo said. About five years ago, flooding to a building that housed telephone equipment cut off phone service for most of the city. Amateur radio operators were stationed at points around the city, ready to call on police or fire companies if someone was stymied when calling 911.

"You could go for years and not call on them," Fiorillo said. "Then you have something like the hurricanes, or flooding..."

But it's hard to keep people, especially kids, interested in chatting with other radio operators in, say, Australia, when anyone can wander into an online chat room and do much the same thing.

But Brian Casey, a retired Colonie police officer, has hopes for the future. He is trying to organize an amateur radio class for kids at the Colonie Family Recreation Center, where he has worked for the last three years.

"Kids can sit in front of the boob tube and learn what? Nothing," he said. "With the radios, it's fun, and one of these days a kid might have his own 'shack' and be able to help out the community in an emergency," Casey said.

So far, it's been a tough sell, with just a handful of kids expressing interest. But he hasn't given up yet.

The New York Times reported that more than 660,000 Americans have amateur radio licenses. The American Radio Relay League, the umbrella group to organizations like SARA, has about 150,000 members.

Dan Higgins 454-5523, or e-mail at [dhiggins@timesunion.com](mailto:dhiggins@timesunion.com)



**S A R A**

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

President: Hal Post AK2E [ak2e@arrl.net](mailto:ak2e@arrl.net) 584-6441  
VicePres Dan Whelan N2UD [n2ud@arrl.net](mailto:n2ud@arrl.net) 895-2754  
Sec: Rudy Dehn W2JVF [w2jvf@juno.com](mailto:w2jvf@juno.com) 372-6139  
Treas: George Williams W2CSN  
[williamg@tardis.union.edu](mailto:williamg@tardis.union.edu) 377-6188

### Directors

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Bob Saltzman WB2ARK [saltzman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:saltzman@nycap.rr.com) 370-2222  
Frank Simon WB2PUH [simonf072@strose.edu](mailto:simonf072@strose.edu) 477-5255  
James Stewart K2PK [k2pk@arrl.net](mailto:k2pk@arrl.net) 399-1867

### 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 W20DC [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

### January 2007

6-7 [ARRL RTTY Round-Up](#)  
8 [SARA Meeting](#)  
20-22 [ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

### February

1-3 [ARRL International DX Contest \(CW\)](#)  
5 [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