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October 2007

SARA General Meeting, Monday October 1, 2007 at 7:00PM at Niskayuna High School
NEW MEETING ROOM - we are now in "Little Theater" Room D-104.

ALL ABOUT WIRES!

A presentation by Dale Douglass

Wire is used everywhere in the radio world. Wire antennas are subject to the stresses of temperature, wind, and ice and require sufficient mechanical strength to be able to hold up under demanding conditions. Guy wire is different from the wire used for grounding. Guy wire has mechanical strength requirements not needed for ground wire, while ground wire has to be able to handle the currents that may be imposed by lightning or power line faults. Hard drawn copper, soft drawn copper, Copperweld, steel, and aluminum wire all have their applications. This talk will be about the electrical and mechanical properties of wire and why one might be better than another for a particular application.

Dale Douglass is a world-known expert on the mechanical and electrical properties of overhead electrical conductors. He is a Fellow of the IEEE and chairs the Towers Poles and Conductors Committee of the IEEE Power Engineering Society. He has been active in the development of conductor-related standards. He previously worked for Bell Labs, Kaiser Aluminum (a conductor manufacturer), and Power Technologies Inc. and is presently with Power Delivery Consultants. Sag-tension under different loading conditions and temperature rise as affected by current and weather are among his specialties. Dale resides in Niskayuna.

IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT SARA MEETINGS THIS YEAR

This year the meeting location within Niskayuna High School has changed to the "Little Theater" Room D-104 which is on a cross hallway between the two wings in the rear of the school. This is about 150 feet down the hall and to the right of the old meeting location in "new cafeteria". Also due to construction at the school there will be changes in parking and access to the rear parking lot. Access to the school's rear parking lot can be gained by entering from Nott Street which crosses Balltown just south of the school at the light. Go past shopping mall and the entrance will be marked on the left and it will bring you to the High School parking lot. As always SARA meetings are only held when Niskayuna High School has classes so if there is inclement weather check the K2AE repeater 147.06 or call one of the club officers on the phone or radio. There is no smoking on school premises.

SARA Has Changed its Mailing Address

Effective now the new SARA mailing address for all correspondence including membership renewals is:

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Inc.

P.O. Box 449

Schenectady, NY 12301

HOW BIG IS YOUR SARA NEWS?

This month's email SARA news and the new SARA News "EXTRA" is over 30 pages long! See the article on page 3 about this new SARA News Extra feature. It also helps support the SARA club by saving postage and trees!

The Dream Contact.....

By Dan Whelan – N2UD

There comes a time in every hams life when a day is perfect for ham radio....sometimes it is in the winter, sometimes it is in the fall or spring....other times it is in the summer, but that day has something very special about it. Well, for one thing you will notice that day that it is the perfect day to be playing "ham radio" for reasons other than radio. For example the weather might be bad, you might be having a snow day from work, you are mobiling along on a beautiful day..etc. My personal favorite ham radio contact days usually happen when I am on a picnic or camping and have set up my rig on the edge of a nice lake near a nice campfire..... The typical thing that happens in this hypothetical "perfect or dream contact" is that everyting seems right to get on the air.... But then something astounding happens, you turn on your rig and if the conditions are good, you find the perfect clear frequency and someone from someplace like Tazmania or maybe a little research station in Siberia is calling CQ. And in good English no less! And if conditions are bad on the bands, there is a special opening between the two of you while the rest of the stations are in the noise. But this time, for some reason the copy is perfect and there is a "pipeline" between you. You start the contact and it is like magic, this person seems to be somebody you always wanted to know and you "click". If you are lucky the band holds up for an hour....just about the limit before a "potty break". You both sign and say 73 and then it strikes you.... This is one of those contacts you have waited years for. That special moment of chance that two minds meet in the aether (*old radio term for the medium radio signals travel through*) and the night lights up for you both...something that you can savor..... And of course this is one of those QSOs you will tell ham and non-ham friends about for years to come! One of ham radio's special moments. So you wonder Just maybe, tonight will be the night?

Edison Exploratorium

For those of you who are interested or have been a part of the technology heritage of the Schenectady area, you may want to check out the Edison Exploratorium. This organization is focused on the very special heritage of the area and those engineers, technicians, machinists and scientists who put forward the basic technology that we all know today in electricity, power generation, appliances, radio and television. The organization has an amazing collection of historic electronic and electrical equipment build and designed in the area by technical people many of whom may have been members of SARA in years gone by. They have a variety of items on display and they have visiting hours that can be found by calling them at (518) 372-8425. Their building is located at 136 Broadway, Schenectady NY 12305. You can also visit their website at <http://www.edisonexploratorium.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

| Dates | Hamfest Event and Website | Location |
|----------------|---|--|
| 6 Oct 2007 | 19th AR & Elect. Hamfest Mt. Tom Rptr. Assn. http://www.mtara.org/flea07.html | Feeding Hills, MA Springfield Turnverein Club |
| 6 Oct 2007 | NNY Section Convention Northern New York ARA http://www.nnyara.org | Lake Placid, NY- Horse- Showgrounds Route 73 |
| 7 Oct 2007 | Connecticut State Conv. - Nutmeg Hamfest Allie. http://www.nutmeghamfest.com | Wallingford, CT Mountain Ridge Resort |
| 12-13 Oct 2007 | New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest) http://www.near-fest.com | Deerfield, NH Deerfield Fairgrounds Hwy 43 |
| 14 Oct 2007 | WNY Sect. Conv.-Harvest Hamfest-Lancaster ARC http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/ | Buffalo, NY Ismailia Shrine Center |
| 18-20 Oct 2007 | Microwave Update 2007 Mt.Airy VHF PackRats http://www.microwaveupdate.org | King of Prussia, PA Dolce Valley Forge |
| 21 Oct 2007 | RF Hill Amateur Radio Club http://www.rfhill.ampr.org | Sellersville, PA Sellersville Fire Department |
| 28 Oct 2007 | Long Isl. Indoor Hamfair & Elect. Show LIMARC http://www.limarc.org | Hicksville, NY Levittown Hall |

Be sure to check out the ARRL Hamfest calendar for more detailed information on these and other upcoming hamfests. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>

RACES/ARES/Mass Casualty Drill – Saturday, September 15, 2007

by Tim Long W2UI

The FCC doesn't give us licenses so we can blabber, contest, or chase DX. We are a resource and are expected to either advance the science or contribute to society by volunteering our services. There aren't that many of us who have the talent to advance the science. That leaves volunteering our services and we should. It's the right thing to do.

So what happens when a railroad car carrying chlorine explodes in Glenville? Well, a green cloud drifts over the Guard Base and the Glenville Town Offices, forcing their evacuation. Over 50 volunteer victims were first decontaminated, then triaged, then transported to either Ellis or St. Clare's Hospital. Emergency rooms were overwhelmed and that was part of the plan.

For this drill, we played a secondary communications role. Drill planners wanted to see how well the fire radios, ambulance radios, and cell phones would perform. Hams did a good job of making sure that the volunteer victims didn't get lost.

I know that most of you say to yourselves that if it were a real disaster, I would be the first in line to volunteer. Imagine a football coach letting someone play in the big game if they never showed up for practice. Participating in this drill were W2DHT Bill Patmos, W2BEJ Tony Pazzola, KC2BLC Larry Eaton, KC2NXC Bill Proctor, N2PEQ, JR Hotaling, N2LBT Dennis Hudson, W2FPG Frank Gagliardi, and W2UI Tim Long. We all received priceless practice and are now better prepared for the big game on Saturday. Thanks everyone.

FOR SALE

KENWOOD TS-520 with Manual and power cords. Asking \$250.00. Call 518-356-1191 Ray-KA2DVM

FOR SALE — 350 feet of RG-8U 52 ohm coax cable, lengths from 25 to 100 feet. I suggest 20 cents per foot. Most lengths have a male connector on both ends. Hy-Gain duo bander 10-15 meters \$50. Hygain 3 element 20 meter mono bander that needs a couple of insulators. \$25. A prop pitch motor in a frame ready to mount on your crank-up tower. Please call to make sure that I am home. K2EHS—399-7309. wmeiklej@nycap.rr.com 100 Van Buren rd. Glenville, NY - *Proceeds go to SARA.*

SARA NEWS "EXTRA" E-MAIL VERSION

For the last five or so years SARA News has been available to all our members in an electronic version sent via email. As all of you know the U.S. Post Office raised its rates and changed some of the mailing rules which have increased the costs to SARA as well as requiring some other changes. Today many groups send out their newsletters via the Internet including the ARRL. The reason to do this is that it insures that the newsletter will arrive on time and the quality can be assured. But increasingly the cost is the reason, it also limits the size of newsletters. In fact each and every printed copy of SARA news that must be delivered by U.S. mail eats up about 30% of the annual dues paid by that member. So to put it simply, those that take the electronic version of SARA News are really helping the club by contributing substantially more to the operation of the club as well as making less work for those volunteers. In the last few years SARA News delivered electronically has had some enhanced features such as color, beginning this issue the electronic SARA News will also have additional content. The "SARA News Extra" is available as a bonus and will not be in the printed version due to the cost. The basic printed version of the SARA news will still delivered to those who do not have computers and can only use the printed version. However we are encouraging everyone who can, to take the electronic version for the improved content. If you would like to sign up for the electronic delivery of SARA News let our treasurer George Williams W2CNS williamg@scoter3.union.edu and the keeper of the SARA email database Tim Long W2UI tlong8@earthlink.net know when you want to change over or at the time send in your renewal and you will start getting the SARA News and SARA News Extra.

REMINDER The SARA Membership year runs from July until June. 2007-2008 dues are now due.

SARA's Board Of Directors 2007-2008

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SARA Dues Regular Member \$20 ____ Family Member \$5 ____ Student \$5 ____ Repeater Fund \$ ____

Name _____ Callsign _____

Email _____ SARA News Email ____ or Mail ____

Street _____ Member ARES ____ RACES ____ ARRL ____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Mail to: **Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Inc.; P.O. Box 449; Schenectady, NY 12301**

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