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January 2008

SARA General Meeting, Monday January 7th, 2008 at 7:00PM at
in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 at Niskayuna High School

VHF RADIO WAVE PROPAGATION

"Terrain and Propagation"

Paul Kirchner - W2YBP



Our January 7th SARA Meeting will feature a presentation on VHF and UHF radio wave propagation by Paul Kirchner – W2YBP. Paul has worked for the GE Electronics Laboratory in Syracuse before moving to Niskayuna and GE TIPO (Telecommunications and Information Processing Operation). After retiring from GE in 1988 he consulted for various industries including the wireless industry, cable TV companies and has done terrain shadowing and interference analysis for various of these kinds of license applications. He has also been involved in FM broadcasting. The meeting gets underway at 7 PM in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 of Niskayuna High School.

About The SARA Meeting Location

The normal SARA meeting location for 2008 is in Niskayuna High School's "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". Due to major school construction at the front main entrance of the school there are changes in parking and the traffic pattern for access to the rear parking lot. Access to the school's rear parking lot must be gained by entering from Nott Street which crosses Balltown just south of the school at the light. Go past shopping mall where Friendly's is a few hundred yards on Nott and go into the Niskayuna High School rear entrance which is marked on the left. This entrance leads to the parking lot on the side/rear of the school. As always SARA meetings are only held when Niskayuna High School has classes, so if there is a school closing that day or evening due to inclement weather check the K2AE repeater 147.06 or call one of the club officers on the phone or radio. Also remember there is no smoking on school premises.

ARRL JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES

Have "cabin fever"? A good bit of fun can be had on all of the VHF and UHF bands on the January VHF Contest starting at 2pm Sat. on Jan. 20 though 11pm Sun. Jan.21. If you have only FM rigs you join in the fun on FM simplex (direct contact not using repeaters or repeater frequencies). FM Simplex frequencies include 52.525, 146.55, 146.58, 222.5, 446.0 Mhz.; but note that use of the national calling frequency of 146.52 Mhz is not allowed for any contests. If you have a multi-mode rig, check on the weak signal portion (i.e. 50.130, 144.200, 432.100 etc.) of each of the bands on Upper Side Band or CW. To participate in the VHF contests you will need to exchange your grid square (which are blocks of territory using a system rectangles of one degree of latitude by two degrees of longitude). For most people in Schenectady, Rotterdam, Glenville, Albany, Colonie, Troy, East Greenbush, Chatham, Coyemans and Guilderland is "FN32". If you are in Duanesburg, Schoharie, Berne or Amsterdam you are in "FN22". If you live north of Ballston Spa, in Saratoga or north of Saratoga Lake or Schylerville you are in FN33. If you live near Broadalbin, West Galway, Johnstown or Northville you are in "FN23" For full contest rules and more information on grid squares you can check out the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/jan-vhf-ss.html>

SARA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

12 Dec 07 SARA Board Meeting At Niskayuna High School

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

Attendees: K2PK Jim, WB2ARK Bob, W2CSN George, KA2DVM Ray, KC2MER Dan, AK2E Hal, KG2AC Bill, WB2PUH Frank, N2UD Dan, K2RI Raleigh.

Treasurer Report submitted and accepted.

Secretary Report submitted and accepted.

Old business:

- 1.) There was a motion "for a surcharge of \$5 for SARA news that is mailed to members. Starting next fiscal year 08-09. (Starts 1 July 2008) and to be charged 1 year at a time until amended". The motion was unanimously passed. Note that normal dues will remain at \$20 per year for normal full membership and there will be no surcharge for those whom receive the SARA News by email.
- 2.) Edison committee was formed. Members are N2UD, W2JVF, K2RI and KG2AC.
- 3.) Broughton Awards Committee will be KG2AC, AK2E, W2CSN, K2RI.
- 4.) The board discussed several ideas on how to honor W2ODC sk.
- 5.) Several tasks for above were assigned by the board, to the Edison Committee and the Broughton committee.

New business:

- 1.) Upcoming Club Presidents meeting.
- 2.) 501C incorporation.
- 3.) Next board meeting will be held on 16 Jan 08

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

UPCOMING SARA MEETING DATES

The following are the "normal" SARA meeting dates for 2008. SARA meetings are normally the first non-holiday Monday of the month that the meeting location (Niskayuna school) is open.

2007-08 Membership Year

January 7, 2008
February 4, 2008
March 3, 2008
April 7, 2008
May 5, 2008
June 2, 2008

2008-09 Membership Year

September 8, 2008
October 6, 2008
November 3, 2008
December 1, 2008
January 5, 2009



HOW MANY HAMS ARE IN THE USA?

<u>December 31, 2007</u>	<u>1 Year Ago</u>	<u>Change</u>
Tech.....310,901	309,339	+1562
Tech Plus....30,992	42,084	-11092
Novice.....26,609	29,651	-3042
General....155,090	142,735	+12355
Advanced....73,257	77,202	-3945
Extra.....115,433	111,399	+4034
Club.....10,610	10,266	+344
Total US...722,892	722,676	+216

For latest data go to:
<http://www.hamdata.com/fccinfo.html>



US Census as of 1/31/2007 = 303,143,080 people. About 1 out of every 426 people holds a ham license.

FREE- U.S. Government / FEMA Emergency Distance Learning Courses

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) which is a part of FEMA, offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment. To get a complete listing of courses, click on Course List link above.

FEMA's Independent Study Program offers courses that support the nine mission areas identified by the National Preparedness Goal.

- Incident Management
- Operational Planning
- Disaster Logistics
- Emergency Communications
- Service to Disaster Victims
- Continuity Programs
- Public Disaster Communications
- Integrated Preparedness
- Hazard Mitigation

Many of these disaster training courses are designed for regular citizens and are of interest to hams involved in emergency response as well with a desire to be prepared. And all of the courses are free of charge. Check out the FEMA website for more details on specific independent study courses: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

ARRL Field Day 2008 Is Coming.....

It isn't too early to start thinking about the biggest operating event in SARA's year which will be coming up on the weekend of June 23 – 24. Even though there is still snow on the fields out there it is a good time to think about how you might want to participate this year. The December 2007 issue of SARA News had some photos as well as the clubs results and you might want to keep that in mind as we get closer.

An Embarrassing Moment in US Space History - Woodpecker Damage!

Space Shuttle Discovery STS-70 Mission on June 8, 1995 was on the launch pad when it had to be rolled back to the Cape Kennedy Vertical Assembly Building after it was found to be damaged by Yellow Flicker Woodpeckers which drilled about 195 holes on the external tank foam insulation, many of which were too high up on the tank to be accessed at the pad for repairs

Want to write an article for SARA News? Contact Dan Whelan N2UD n2ud@arrl.net

SARA NEWS - A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Dan Whelan N2UD

After a long series of discussions stretching over several years, the SARA Board decided in December to make SARA News a more efficient and better form by now providing it to our members in electronic form by email as the standard way of delivery. This change is in recognition of the fact that today over 70% of all American households have computers and make use of email or the Internet on a regular basis according to a 2007 Pew Research study. This is probably especially true for the more technology savvy households such as those inhabited by ham radio operators. Delivery of SARA News electronically over the past several years has made possible improvements in both the quality and quantity of content as everyone who has gotten the recently implemented "SARA News EXTRA" already knows. In the last few years the majority of our members have already switched to the email version.

The fact is that electronic delivery is much more flexible and provides better quality in the delivery of SARA News but it also has a seriously positive budget impact for SARA because the cost of postage and printing keeps rising each year. Those costs have long limited the size and quality of SARA News and the hours of drudgery in getting the mail folded, prepped, stamped and labeled falls on an already very busy volunteer. SARA News now typically costs 70 cents for each and every issue that is mailed out. This amounts to more than a third of the cost of annual SARA dues. Printing and postage costs will only go up in the future. On the positive side however, electronic delivery not only is efficient and very low cost but it allows for a better newsletter with more content at essentially no extra cost per issue. Many news letters both local and national have switched to email or web delivery some time ago so this change is not really unique.

There is also some added good news that comes with this change because these savings in postage and printing will alleviate the need for SARA to raise dues for some time to come since this will help compensate for other rising costs the club is seeing in areas that pertain the actual activities of SARA such as meetings and field day.. This change takes effect with membership for the next fiscal year 2008-2009 which begins in the July. At that time SARA News via electronic email delivery will be the standard method of delivery. For those few who do not have computer access you can still have SARA news delivered via US Mail by covering part of the cost for an additional \$5 per year. But even this amount DOES NOT fully cover the cost of mailing the newsletter since that cost is now already at \$7 a year! Because the cost of mailing out a newsletter is absolutely certain to keep rising, postal delivery for \$5 is only being accepted for one year at a time. For most of our members who take SARA news electronically the cost of dues is the same with no change.

We urge everyone to switch to email delivery and more information on this if you need it, can be had at our meetings and in future issues of SARA news. By the way there is no need to have a new computer nor an expensive high speed connection to get SARA news. Generally a cheap or free dial-up connection can download SARA news in its Adobe PDF file form in just a couple minutes, much less if you are on a faster link. It is similar to any other type of email with an attachment. One last thing to remember is if you just need to find out what the upcoming SARA program is going to be a few days before the meeting you can also go to the SARA website www.sara.org where basic meeting info is posted.

What do I do if I don't have a computer? Well, we expect some of you may need a bit of help and this knowledge is fairly common these days so we can expect that some of you will help each other out in solving this problem. Today perfectly usable older computers are everywhere and can be had for cheap or even less! Reliable dialup Internet access is also cheap (under \$6/mo) or in some cases free. And in the next couple months we hope to have lots of info on this for those who need a little help. /Dan Whelan N2UD

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

American Radio Relay League www.arrl.org

US Government NIST Time and Frequency Div. <http://tf.nist.gov/>

WM2U's PSK31 Page www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.htm

Edison Exploratorium <http://www.edisonexploratorium.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
5-6 Jan 2008	ARRL RTTY Roundup	
7 Jan 2008	SARA Meeting – 7 PM	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School
12 Jan 2008	Winterfest 2008 Skyline ARC Hamfest http://www.skylineradioclub.org	Marathon Civic Ctr; Marathon, NY Peck & Brink Streets
19-20 Jan 2008	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	
16-17 Feb 2008	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)	
1-2 Mar 2008	ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)	
13 Apr 2008	Mt. Beacon ARC Hamfest http://www.wr2abb.org	LaGrangeville, NY Tymore Park 1 Duncan Road
30-31 May 2008	Rochester Hamfest (Rochester ARA) http://www.rochesterhamfest.org	Fair and Expo Center & RIT Inn & Conference Center; Henrietta, NY
14-15 Jun 2008	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	
28-28 Jun 2008	ARRL Field Day	SARA Field Day Operation

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>

US Ham Bands

Lower HF Bands Below 20 Meters

160 Meters

General, Advanced, Amateur Extra licensees:
1.800-2.000 MHz: CW, Phone, Image, RTTY/Data

80 Meters

Novice and Technician classes:
3.525-3.600 MHz: CW Only
General class:
3.525-3.600 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
3.800-4.000 MHz: CW, Phone, Image
Advanced class:
3.525-3.600 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
3.700-4.000 MHz: CW, Phone, Image
Amateur Extra class:
3.500-3.600 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
3.600-4.000 MHz: CW, Phone, Image

60 Meters: Five Specific Channels

USB only five 2.8-kHz-wide channels. Hams can't cause interference Government users. Max. ERP equal to 50 W PEP into a dipole. See rules for further details.

General, Advanced and Amateur Extra classes:
Channel Center Amateur Tuning Frequency
5332 kHz 5330.5 kHz
5348 kHz 5346.5 kHz
5368 kHz 5366.5 kHz
5373 kHz 5371.5 kHz
5405 kHz 5403.5 kHz (common US/UK)

40 Meters

Novice and Technician classes:
7.025-7.125 MHz: CW Only
General class:
7.025-7.125 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
7.175-7.300 MHz: CW, Phone, Image
Advanced class:
7.025-7.125 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
7.125-7.300 MHz: CW, Phone, Image
Amateur Extra class:
7.000-7.125 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
7.125-7.300 MHz: CW, Phone, Image

30 Meters

Max. 200 watts PEP. Avoid interference to fixed stations.
General, Advanced, Amateur Extra classes:
10.100-10.150 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data

20 Meters

General class:
14.025-14.150 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
14.225-14.350 MHz: CW, Phone, Image
Advanced class:
14.025-14.150 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
14.175-14.350 MHz: CW, Phone, Image
Amateur Extra class:
14.000-14.150 MHz: CW, RTTY/Data
14.150-14.350 MHz: CW, Phone, Image

See ARRL Website for full band information www.arrl.org

SARA's Board Of Directors 2007-2008

President: Frank Simon WB2PUH simonf072@strose.edu 477-5255
VicePres.: James Stewart K2PK k2pk@arrl.net 399-1867
Sec: Hal Post AK2E ak2e@arrl.net 584-6441
Treas: George Williams W2CSN williamg@tardis.union.edu 377-6188

Directors

Dan Fiorillo KC2MER fiorillo.dan@verizon.net 356-3595
Bill Mischler KG2AC kg2ac@juno.com 370-1350
Bob Saltzman WB2ARK saltzman@nycap.rr.com 370-2222
Dan Whelan N2UD n2ud@arrl.net 895-2754

SARA's Standing Committees

SARA News: Dan Whelan n2ud@arrl.net 895-2754
PIO:
Rptr: Scott Krone N2YCA n2yca@nycap.rr.com 273-1610
RFI: Rudy Dehn W2JVF w2jvf@juno.com 372-6139
Public Service: Ken Clikeman AA2CW
free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com 861-6825
VE Team: Bill Mischler KG2AC kg2ac@juno.com 370-1350

VE Registration (518) 370-1350



SARA Dues: Regular Member \$20 _____ New Member Initiation \$5 _____ Repeater Fund \$ _____
Family Member \$5 _____ Student Member \$5 _____ SARA News US postal delivery Add \$5 _____

Name _____ Callsign _____

Email _____ (SARA News is sent via Email)

Street _____ I belong to ARRL ___ ARES ___ RACES ___

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

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

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P.O. Box 449
Schenectady, NY 12301**