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February 2008

SARA General Meeting, Monday February 4th, 2008 at 7:00PM at
in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 at Niskayuna High School



Simple Antennas For Fun Operating

This month's SARA presentation will be on simple antennas and mobile rover operations by Erick Fiveland KC2IRO. Eric became a ham back in 2001 while a grad student at RPI. He operated his first contest from the RPI club shack for the January 2002 ARRL VHF sweepstakes. Since then he has been operating as a rover for a number of the VHF/UHF contests. He has been using and building a lot of inexpensive home-brew antennas with simple designs. The best part is that these antenna designs are applicable for both rover and base use. Data will be presented on these designs as well as mounting equipment.

Eric now works at the GE research center in Niskayuna working in the field of MRI research and development (mostly working with 63 MHz and 127 MHz equipment). He can be found on the air during most of the VHF/UHF contests roving around various "grid squares" and hill tops.

The SARA Meeting will begin at 7 PM in Room D-104 "the Little Theater".

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.

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 High School) is open.

2007-08 Membership Year

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

REPEATER OPERATION (Excerpt from ARRL “Repeaters, What They Are and How To Use Them”)

Courtesy Counts

If you are in the midst of a conversation and another station transmits his or her call sign between transmissions, the next station in line to transmit should acknowledge the new station and permit the new arrival to make a call or join the conversation.

It is impolite not to acknowledge new stations, or to acknowledge them but not let them speak. The calling station may need to use the repeater immediately. He or she may have an emergency to handle, so let him or her make a transmission promptly. A brief pause before you begin each transmission allows other stations to break in -- there could be an emergency. Don't key your microphone as soon as someone else releases theirs. If your exchanges are too quick, you can prevent other stations from getting in.

The *courtesy tones* found on some repeaters prompt users to leave a space between transmissions. The beeper sounds a second or two after each transmission to permit new stations to transmit their call signs in the intervening time. The conversation may continue only after the beeper sounds. If a station is too quick and begins transmitting before the beeper sounds, the repeater may indicate the violation, sometimes by shutting down!

Keep transmissions as short as possible, so more people can use the repeater. Again, long transmissions could prevent someone with an emergency from getting the chance to call for help through the repeater. All repeaters encourage short transmissions by "timing out" (shutting down for a few minutes) when someone gets longwinded. The **time-out timer** also prevents the repeater from transmitting continuously, due to distant signals or interference. Because it has such a wide coverage area, a continuously transmitting repeater could cause unnecessary interference. Continuous operation can also damage the repeater.

You must transmit your call sign at the end of a contact and at least every 10 minutes during the course of any communication. You do not have to transmit the call sign of the station to whom you are transmitting. *Never transmit without identifying.* For example, keying your microphone to turn on the repeater without saying your station call sign is illegal. If you do not want to engage in conversation, but simply want to check if you are able to access a particular repeater, simply say "N1KB testing."

One other thing to remember is that “direct” or “simplex” operation is really useful for some kinds of long conversations and the common simplex frequencies are always available. With a modest outside antenna ranges of 10 to 30 miles or more are possible without use of a repeater. Keep in mind that the use of the National Simplex frequency 146.520 Mhz should also be kept fairly short since it is often used for calling and to establish contact, then move off to 146.58 or one of the other frequencies. (SARA Editor - N2UD)

Common VHF/UHF FM Simplex Frequencies

2-Meter Band 146.52* 146.535 146.55 146.565 146.58 146.595 147.42 147.435 147.45 147.465 147.48 147.495 147.51 147.525 147.54 147.555 147.57 147.585	1.25-Meter Band 223.42 223.44 223.46 223.48 223.50* 223.52	70-cm Band 446.0* 33-cm Band 906.5* 23-cm Band 1294.5* 1294.000 1294.025 Every 25 kHz to 1295
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* National simplex frequency

Downloading SARA News Electronic Version

SARA News is distributed electronically as a "PDF" file which can be read by virtually any computer made in the last 20 years using the Adobe reader program which is free of charge at www.adobe.com. This program is also provided with most new computers and there is some other software which will also read these type files.

As to how big a file or how long it takes to download SARA News the answer is that first of all the PDF file format in addition to being readable with any computer with free software, it is also an efficient way to transmit documents that will look nearly exactly like printed versions of the document look. The PDF files can also be made more compact so they take up less space and can be downloaded more quickly. In preparing SARA News we make use of these capabilities regularly. In addition SARA News is split into two parts, the regular SARA News for the month which contains the essential news of the club plus other articles and the SARA News Extra which contains additional articles and news which may be of interest.

The main edition of SARA News is designed to typically be less than half a megabyte but will never exceed about 1 megabyte. For those who have dial-up internet access that means that SARA News can be downloaded in somewhere around 40 seconds typically. The SARA News Extra typically runs about the same size but because it may contain a lot of optional information or photos at times it may be larger at times. Still in both cases you can download SARA News or SARA News Extra within a couple minutes using a simple (and cheap) dial up connection. If you have a faster connection (but really not required) such as a high speed cable modem or DSL it will take a few seconds each.

By the way one nice thing about the Adobe or compatible format is that you can easily read the SARA News right on your computer. Also a big plus for those of us who's vision isn't quite as good as it used to be, the Adobe reader (and most other compatible reader software) includes a "magnify" feature which allows you to increase the size of the text and photos to whatever is comfortable for you. In addition if you want a printed portion of the SARA News or Extra you can print out just the portions of the document or the whole SARA news if you choose. Lastly, SARA News now includes color photos and other items so you may find that a nice added feature. And for those of you who have some disk space free, you can save copies of your SARA News directly to your hard disk or any other way you wish.

SARA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

January 16, 2008 SARA Board Meeting at Niskayuna High School

Attendees: W2CSN, AK2E, KC2MER, KG2AC, K2RI, N2UD, WB2ARK, WB2PUH, KC2BLC, KC2NXC

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

- Secretary Report submitted and accepted.
- Treasurer Report submitted and accepted.
- Edison Committee Report work in progress. Members are N2UD, W2JVF, K2RI and KG2AC.
- Broughton Committee – Nominations for this year's recipient should be submitted to Bill KG2AC or AK2E, W2CSN, K2RI.
- Lester Committee: KC2MER will contact the Alpaase FD.
- Hudson Div. Presidents and Cabinet meeting Report. WB2PUH SARA President and Div. Assistant Directors AK2E and KC2DTP attended the 12 Jan meeting in Paramus, NJ.

New business:

- Frank WB2PUH will start forming the nomination committee. Any member wishing to be on the board or a club officer, please let Frank know.
- The Board voted on keeping our affiliation with UNIREPCO,
- WB2CSN reported that the 2008 Field day sight at Glenville Hills FD was secured by Paul Siemers WF2F.
- Full membership (at no cost) is extended to persons passing the SARA VE testing session, and welcome and encouraged to attend the regular meetings. The free membership expires at the end of the physical(fiscal) year (30 June).
- The next Board meeting: 13 Feb 2008 at 7PM in the High School. All members are welcome to attend. Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM

SARA News Classified Ad:

"Wanted - Several items: HF antenna tuner with roller inductor, and variable capacitor for transmitter. This would help with my G5RV antenna that we used for the GOTA station used on Field Day. Also I am still interested in a HF linear amplifier that runs on 12 Volts DC. Many thanks.

george, w2csn reply to williamg@union.edu

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 28-29. Set-up begins on Friday afternoon June 27 and help is always appreciated then and at tear down on Sunday afternoon at 2 pm. Those involved with the early coordination activities of Field Day have already begun to start things rolling. For more info on field day contact George Williams W2CSN or any of those who have been active in field day in the past (AK2E, N2UD, W2UI, etc. etc.) and that includes almost everyone who has been a SARA Member for more than couple of years.... It is also a great time to introduce your family, kids and grandkids to ham radio. You can also find some info about Field day in past SARA News or on our website www.k2ae.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
4 Feb 2008	SARA Meeting – 7 PM	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School
16-17 Feb 2008	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)	
2 Mar 2008	Greater Buffalo Winter Hamfest Lancaster ARC http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net	West Seneca, NY Ismailia Shrine Center
23 Feb 2008	Vermont State Convention Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont http://www.RANV.org	Milton, VT Milton High School
24 Feb 2008	Long Island Indoor Hamfair & Electronics Show http://www.limarc.org	Hicksville, NY Levittown Hall
1-2 Mar 2008	ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)	
8 Mar 2008	Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association fest http://www.mtara.org	Feeding Hills, MA Springfield Turnverein Club
13 Apr 2008	Mt. Beacon ARC Hamfest http://www.wr2abb.org	LaGrangeville, NY Tymore Park 1 Duncan Road
15 Mar 2008	Eastern Connecticut ARA Hamfest http://www.qsl.net/k1muj/	Pomfret, CT Pomfret Community S
30 Mar 2008	Flea Market Southington ARA http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm	Southington, CT Southington High School
16-18 May 2008	Dayton Hamvention http://www.hamvention.org	Dayton, OH Hara Arena
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	
28-29 Jun 2008	ARRL Field Day (SARA at Glenville Hills FD)	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.arrrl.org/hamfests.html>

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS ON THE AIR IN FEBRUARY

Feb 7-Feb 11, 0300Z-0145Z, Houghton, MI. Michigan Tech Husky Amateur Radio Club, W8C. Winter Carnival 2008. 444.500 21.315 14.250 7.290. QSL. Husky ARC, ECE Dept, 1400 Townsend Dr, Houghton, MI 49931. w8yy_students.mtu.edu/w8c

Feb 9, 0700Z-1800Z, Huskvarna, SWEDEN. Swedish Heathkit Club, SK7XN. Heathkit Activity Day, celebrating the birth of Howard Anthony. 14.287 14.040 3.700 3.540. QSL. Swedish Heathkit Club, Mats Gunnarsson, Baldersgatan 6, Ljungby SE-341 33, SWEDEN. www.heathkit.se

Feb 9, 1400Z-2200Z, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club, W0EBB. 4th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event. 14.260 14.060 7.290 7.040. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048. www.pkarc.org

Feb 9-Feb 10, 1500Z-2100Z, Milan, OH. The Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club, NI8G. Celebrating the birthday of Thomas Edison, born in Milan, OH. 21.265 14.265 7.265. QSL. Jack Hubbard, NI8N, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. Also celebrating the memory of Tom O'Connor, NI8G. ni8n1@yahoo.com

Feb 11-Feb 15, 1400Z-2100Z, Ft Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, W4LX. Celebrating Thomas Edison's Birthday and our 16th year. 28.430 21.350 14.240. Certificate. FMARC, PO Box 061183, Ft. Myers, FL 33906. stellagurka@embarqmail.com or www.fmarc.net

Feb 16, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating President's Day and Mt Suribachi, Iwo Jima Flag Raising by US Marines in 1945. 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. kc2gyv@yahoo.com

Feb 16-Feb 17, 1500Z-2200Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. George Washington's Birthday. 28.415 14.240 7.240 7.038. Certificate. MVARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com

Feb 16-Feb 17, 1500Z-0300Z, Jackson, TN. West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society, WF4Q/50. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of our club. 28.400 21.310 14.225 7.250. Certificate. West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 3382, Jackson, TN 38303. www.wtars.org

Feb 16-Mar 2, 0000Z-2359Z, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM1R. 40th anniversary of the "Ville de Paris". 14.275 10.110 7.075 3.775. QSL. Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, ARP Radio-Club de Paris, 66 Avenue de la Republique, Paris 75011, FRANCE. Award available for contact with all 5 special event stations. See URL for complete information. arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg

Feb 20-Feb 21, 1500Z-0500Z, Urbana, IL. Mobile Ohm Volunteer Examiners, W9C. Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Champaign County, IL. 14.175 14.070 7.175 7.080. QSL. Patrick Twigg, N9OQT, 1824 Amber Ln #205, Urbana, IL 61802. www.twiggtimes.com/w9c.htm

Feb 21-Feb 23, 0000Z-0000Z, George, WA. Eastern Washington DX Club, W7G. President George Washington's Birthday. 14.250 18.135 7.225 3.880. QSL. Brian J. Nielson, W7BJN, 11650 Road 1 SE, Moses Lake, WA 98837. w7bjn@nwi.net

Feb 23, 1400Z-2100Z, Dunedin (Honeymoon Island NA-034), FL. Mid Florida DX Association, N2D. In memory of Founder and 1st Club President Dan W2NDP (SK). 20m 15m possibly 17m. IOTA frequencies will be used. QSL. Tony De Angelo, N2MFT, PO Box 341471, Tampa, FL 33694-1471. www.w4fdx.com

Feb 23, 1500Z-2300Z, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, KD8CKP. 3rd Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event. 14.245 21.315 7.245 EchoLink. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. Check ins via EchoLink on the KC8RKV node. www.portcars.org

Feb 23-Mar 6, 0100Z-2359Z, Austin/San Antonio, TX. Central TX Contest Group, WA5DTK. Commemorating the seige days at the Alamo. 14.250 7.240 14.040 7.040. QSL. Barry Brewer, 603 Broken Bow Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681-7401. wa5dtk@arri.net

Feb 28, 1500Z-2245Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. USS Kidd Launch Anniversary. 15 20 40 m Gen bands. QSL. USS Kidd Special Event, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/uss_kidd.htm

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/>



HOW MANY HAMS ARE IN THE USA?

	December 31, 2007	1 Year Ago	Change
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.

SARA's Board Of Directors 2007-2008

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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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