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May 2008

SARA General Meeting, Monday May 5th, 2008 at 7:00PM at
in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 at Niskayuna High School



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SKYWARN TRAINING

The May SARA Meeting will be dedicated to National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN training. This unique program gives us the chance to brush up on our weather eyes and use ham radio to help the cause of providing the NWS with additional eyes in the field for severe weather, floods and storms. To facilitate in getting credit for this training please register on line before the meeting at the NWS website. The NWS has an automated data collection process whereby all SKYWARN Spotters will register for the sessions and keep their own data up to date. This will save NWS many hours of data entry work and also give the spotters access to their spotter cards at all times. We ask that you get the word out that the spotters planning on attending these sessions need to pre-register. This is especially important for those sessions being held at Amateur Radio Club Monthly Meetings such as the May SARA meeting

The following link will take you directly to NWS registration page: <http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/Talks.htm> 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.

REMINDER: The 2008 Broughton Award Nominations are due no later than the May SARA meeting so if you have someone who you know who has made a long term major contribution to amateur radio in our area please let this year's award chairman know Bill Mischler KG2AC kg2ac@juno.com 370-1350

NEXT MONTH'S SARA MEETING DATE: MONDAY JUNE 2, 2008

TECHNICAL NOTES:

HOW TO SAVE TIME AND EFFORT LOCATING BURIED CONDUCTORS

by Rudy Dehn - W2JVF

So you put your feedline or radials underground a few years ago and now want to put a flower bed or have another reason to use that general area and you are concerned about chopping into the buried conductors.

Well, if there is **ANY** possible chance that there is a utility's underground conductor from the the phone company, cable company or a gas line or water line anywhere near by; they really want you to call the **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG** service which will mark out where those things are buried. That service is **free** and it saves you from having to pay for damages if you dig in the wrong place. Matter of fact if there is any possibility at all that a utility line might be near there, please do **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**, the number is **1-800-962-7962** in upstate New York. In a few days they will come and "mark out" lines on the ground where there any utilities are underground. Please do this because if you damage something it can cost you thousands for the repairs they will do.....probably on overtime on a weekend or holiday!!!

But say you already know there is not the remotest chance of a utility underground and you do remember burying coax or ground wires somewhere around there so it is really now your problem. What should you do?

A convenient method of locating the lines is to take a battery powered portable AM Radio with antenna (if any) almost retracted and gain advanced. Tune to a local station that isn't too strong. Now move around the general area where the wires should be buried with the radio down low. The buried conductor will couple to the AM radio and the signal should come up with a maximum strength directly over the buried line. This has worked fine for wires or cable buried up to around 6 in. and may work for deeper burials but has not been tested for those cases. And just in case; dig carefully!

ARRL Field Day 2008 Is Coming.....

March is here and it is less than 90 days for Field Day 2008! It certainly 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. It is also a great time to introduce your family, kids and grandkids to ham radio. We need our members to help at all levels of the FD operation so be sure to ask around at the SARA meeting and let us know you are interested in helping out. Things get underway in earnest as soon as the snow starts to melt. 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@arrl.net

Antenna Expert L. B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK)

(From ARRL website) L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, ARRL Technical Adviser and antenna authority, passed away in mid April. He was 68. An ARRL Life Member, Cebik was known to many hams for the numerous articles he wrote on antennas and antenna modeling. He had articles published in most of the US ham journals, including [QST](#), [QEX](#), [NCJ](#), [CQ](#), [Communications Quarterly](#), [Ham Radio](#), [73](#), [QRP Quarterly](#), [Radio-Electronics](#) and [QRPP](#). Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, [QEX](#) Editor, called Cebik "probably the most widely published and often read author of Amateur Radio antenna articles ever to write on the subject." Cebik lived in Knoxville, Tennessee and wrote more than a dozen books on antennas for both the beginner and the advanced student. Among his books are a basic tutorial in the use of *NEC* antenna modeling software and compilations of his many shorter pieces. A teacher for more than 30 years, Cebik was retired, but served as Professor Emeritus of philosophy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



In 2000, L.B. Cebik, W4RNL (right), visited ARRL Headquarters to discuss the then-new ARRL Certification Program with League Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, and other HQ staff members. [Rick Lindquist, N1RL, Photo]

SARA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

23 April 2008 Board meeting

Present: AK2E, K2PK, K2RI, KC2MER, KG2AC, N2UD, W2CSN, W2JVF, WB2PUH

Called to order at 7:10 PM

Secretary report: accepted as published and discussed correspondence. Sara will not have a display table this year but will still support Nisky Day parade with communications on 17 May 2008

Treasurer report: accepted

Old Business:

1: Board authorized W2PV Plaque funding.

2: Board authorized N2UD to continue as K2AE Trustee and to renew the club License.

3: Edison committee – things are progressing nicely.

4: Broughton committee:

1. W2ODC Plaque design approved.

2. WB2PUH will create the plaque wording. Other remembrance items are still in progress.

3. To be presented to the Alpaus Fire Department on the 4th of July Parade.

4. Broughton award nominations will be accepted on or before 5 May 2008. Nominations can be given to any SARA Board member or officer.

5: Nomination committee – still accepting officer positions. If any member wishes to be an officer or board member please let N2UD, or K2PK, or AK2E know by the May regular meeting.

6: Field Day: Rob Fox and Sid are both on board again with their culinary contributions!

7: Summer Picnic: Hal will try to obtain the Greenfield Park picnic pavilion, located in Middle Grove NY. The date will be published as soon as it is obtained. The club will furnish plates, cutlery and non-alcoholic beverages. The park has a covered pavilion with several picnic tables, several small charcoal grills. There are clean restrooms with running water near the picnic area. Large playground for the youngsters and tennis courts. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass and your smiles.

New Business: No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Note: The March SARA Board meeting notes were omitted from April SARA News so here they are for the 12 March 2008 board meeting.

Present: W2CSN, AK2E, KG2AC, K2RI, WB2ARK, K2PK, WB2PUH, N2UD

Called to order at 7 PM

Secretary report: accepted as published.

Treasurer report: accepted

Old Business:

1 Edison Committee, no report.

2 Broughton Committee, Applications are being accepted by KG2AC.

3 W2ODC Board, KG2AC will look into Plaques and pricing for the Alpaus Fire House.

3 Election Committee, K2pk, N2ud and AK2e, candidates for office will be asked to serve for next year's term. If you would like to be an officer please contact any Board member.

4 Field Day Committee, still need a chairman. Field has been secured at the Glennville Hills FD.

New Business:

Secretary discussed correspondence.

A picnic was discussed for the summer months. Further discussion needed.

Nisky Day, May 17 – no action taken. Next board meeting – do we want a table?

Future Board meetings: April 16; May 14; June 11

Meeting adjourned about 8 PM

The New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest III)

Held at DEERFIELD, NH - May 2nd & 3rd

ALL radio enthusiasts are invited to attend the Spring 2008 convocation of NEAR-Fest II at the magnificent Deerfield New Hampshire Fairgrounds.

Gates open Friday 0900. Prepaid ticket holders admitted first. Admission is \$10.00 per person (\$5.00 Saturday after 0600) and \$10.00 per vehicle (RVs, Campers, Trailers) \$20.00) into the flea market. Ample free parking available outside the flea market. Thursday night camp over and pre-hamfest get-together @ \$20.00 per vehicle. Plan on joining us and help get the fun started early! Purchase advance tickets and vehicle passes by mail as well as at the Fairgrounds. Send check or money order to: NEAR-Fest, PO Box 511, Hartford VT 05047.

In addition to the hundreds of hams "tailgating" in the flea market there will be several educational forums, the traditional Friday night "Jam Session" and three buildings packed full of commercial vendors and dealers offering everything from the latest in radio equipment, books, accessories and who knows what else? You never know what treasures, old and new, you will find at Deerfield!

The Deerfield Fairgrounds is located on Route 43 approximately 15 miles NE of Manchester NH. Take Exit 3 off Highway 101 East and follow Highway 43 north to the fairgrounds. GPS coordinates: N42° 5' 57.4" W71° 14' 33.5" (Lat 43.099286 Lon -71.242663). Talk-in on K1JEK/RPT 146.700 MHz (-600 PL 88.5). Website is <http://near-fest.com/index.php>

NOTE: The Deerfield Fair Association rules prohibit alcohol and open fires anywhere on the grounds. Charcoal grills, barbeques, gas grills are okay! Full details are available on the official NEAR-Fest Web Site: www.near-fest.com

Don't forget! BOXBORO Hamfest August 23-24 2008 www.boxboro.org

Fall Near-Fest Tentative Dates: October 10th and 11th 2008



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
2-3 May 2008	Near-fest Spring Hamfest/Swapfest Fri-Sat 9:00 – all day camping available	Deerfield NH Fairgrounds www.near-fest.com
5 May 2008	<i>SARA Meeting – 7 PM</i>	<i>Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School</i>
16-18 May 2008	Dayton Hamvention ARRL http://www.hamvention.org	Hara Arena, Dayton, OH
30-31 May 2008	Rochester Hamfest (Rochester ARA) ARRL http://www.rochesterhamfest.org	Fair and Expo Center & RIT Inn & Conference Center; Henrietta, NY
2 June 2008	<i>SARA Meeting – 7 PM Business/Election Meeting</i>	<i>Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School</i>
14-15 Jun 2008	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	See www.arrl.org for details
28-29 Jun 2008	ARRL Field Day - SARA at Glenville Hills Fire Dept. on Ridge Road. From Scotia take Sacandaga Road about 2 miles to Stewarts store.	SARA Field Day Operation All members welcome! Bring the YL, kids and grandkids
2-3 Aug 2008	ARRL UHF Contest	See www.arrl.org for details
23-24 Aug 2008	Boxboro ARRL New England Hamfest http://www.boxboro.org/	Boxboro MA
7 Sept 2008	<i>SARA Picnic 1 PM to 5 PM (Further details to be announced)</i>	<i>Greenfield Town Park located on Saratoga County Rt. 21 (Middle Grove Rd.</i>
8 Sept 2008	<i>SARA Meeting – 7 PM (First meeting of 08-09)</i>	<i>Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School</i>
2-3 May 2008	Near-fest (Fall) Hamfest/Swapfest Fri-Sat 9:00 – all day (Tentative date)	Deerfield NH Fairgrounds www.near-fest.com

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>



SARA's Board Of Directors 2007-2008

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SARA Dues: Regular Member \$20 _____ New Member Initiation \$5 _____ Repeater Fund \$ _____
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