



www.k2ae.org

Copyright 2008 SARA Inc.

June 2008

SARA General Meeting, Monday June 2nd, 2008 at 7:00PM at
in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 at Niskayuna High School



Annual SARA, Election, Awards and Business Meeting

Also Featuring ARRL Eastern New York Section (ENY)
Section Manager Peter A. Cecere, N2YJZ



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. Also remember there is no smoking on school premises.



REMINDER!

FIELD DAY 2008 is June 28 - June 29th!

SARA will be at our usual Field Day site near the Glenville Hills Fire Department on Ridge Road and Church Road in West Glenville off of Sacandaga Road Rt 158.

YOUR SARA MEMBERSHIP Runs from July to June.

The new 2008-2009 SARA Year starts next month!

MARK YOUR CALANDER:

SARA PICNIC SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 See page 2



Try Crystal Radio???

NEXT REGULAR SARA MEETING DATE: **MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**

2008-2009 SARA Slate of Officers

The SARA Nominating Committee has deliberated and selected a slate of members as nominees that it recommends for the 2008-2009 term. In accordance with the requirements of the SARA bylaws the Nominating Committee nominates the following:

President: James Stewart K2PK
V. President: Frank Simon WB2PUH
Secretary: Hal Post AK2E
Treas.: George Williams W2CSN

Director: Dan Fiorillo KC2MER
Director: Bill Mischler KG2AC
Director: Bob Saltzman WB2ARK
Director: Ivan(Bill) Proctor KC2NXC

Note: As required under SARA bylaws the outgoing President is to remain on as a member of SARA board. This year the outgoing President WB2PUH, has accepted the position of Vice President so four Director candidates have been selected by the Nominating committee. This retains the normal compliment of SARA board members required under the bylaws consisting of four officers and four directors.

Respectfully Submitted:

2008-09 Nominating Committee: N2UD, AK2E & K2PK

ARRL Field Day 2008 Is This Month!

The weekend of Saturday June 28 – Sunday June 29th!

Field Day 2008 is now only Days Away! SARA has a need of your skills as well as your friends and family to come along to our most celebrated annual activity. This is the perfect time to acquaint those you know with some of the more fun and often really interesting aspects of ham radio. It is also a time when our community (and the media) notices the great work hams can do in times of emergency or natural disaster. Even the June issue of QST this month heralded the work Chinese hams and others were doing to aid in earthquake response on the other side of the world, this is indeed what hams do best when the chips are down!



So be sure to join us for the biggest operating event in SARA's year which will be coming up on the weekend of June 28-29. There is the need for "operators" as well as "loggers" day, night and especially in the late night when conditions and DX tends to be good! Solar power operation will be during Sunday morning. 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.

Even if you have no idea what to do or how to operate.....WE WANT YOU!!!! Free training provided! Plus there is refreshments and lots of good conversations for those who are not operating on the air. 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



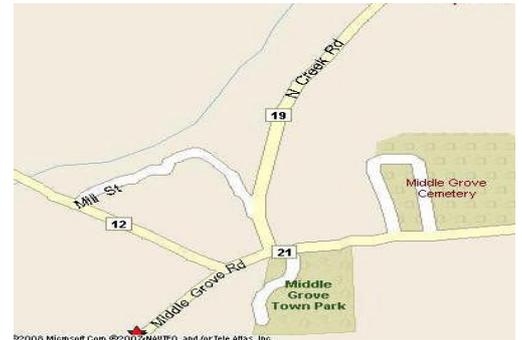
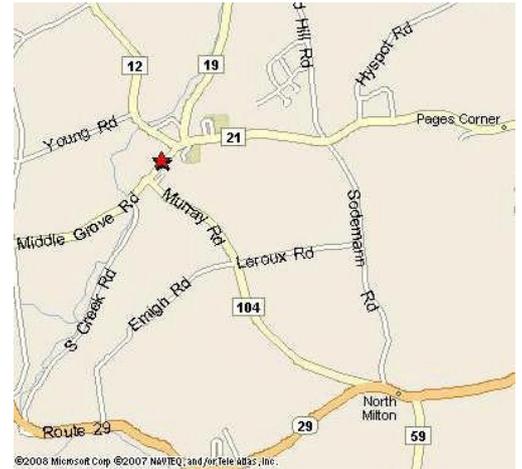
SARA PICNIC SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

Hal AK2E has reserved the pavilion at the Greenfield Town Park located on County Rt 21(Middle Grove Rd.) for 7 Sep 2008. That is the Sunday after Labor day weekend and a week before the Saratoga ARC hamfest in Ballston Spa. 2PM sounds like a good time to start eating. The park closes at dusk and no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Directions

Depart Schenectady, NY on SR-5 [State St] (West)

1. Turn RIGHT (North) onto Erie Blvd 1.3 mi
 2. Road name changes to Freeman Bridge Rd [Freemans Bridge Rd] 1.6 mi
 3. Bear RIGHT (North) onto SR-50 [Saratoga Rd] 7.3 mi
 4. Keep LEFT onto CR-59 [Middle Line Rd] 9.1 mi
 5. Turn LEFT (West) onto SR-29 0.2 mi
 6. Keep RIGHT onto CR-104 [Murray Rd] 1.9 mi
 7. Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto CR-21 [Middle Grove Rd] 0.1 mi
- End.** Arrive middle grove, ny



JUST FOR FUN! - Build A Crystal Radio Set?

OK! Summer is coming and maybe, just maybe one of these nights you want to try something a little different? Or maybe you haven't had a bit of fun with radio for a while? Or perhaps you are just mentally "burned out" from fiddling with too many menus on your brand new megabuck YAE-COM-WOOD-TEC digital wonder rig? Perhaps you need to step back in time to when radio was really fun and even cheap!. We really could build things that worked by hand too! Besides it will give you something to do with all those Quaker Oats containers you have been saving..... Use them as a coil forms! For a good time and no small amount of nostalgia as well as some theory, parts and plans; check out all of these crystal radio websites:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_radio_receiver <http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/radio9.htm>

<http://www.midnightscience.com/>

<http://www.peeblesoriginals.com/>

<http://www.crystalradio.net/index.shtml>

<http://www.schmarder.com/radios/crystal/index.htm>

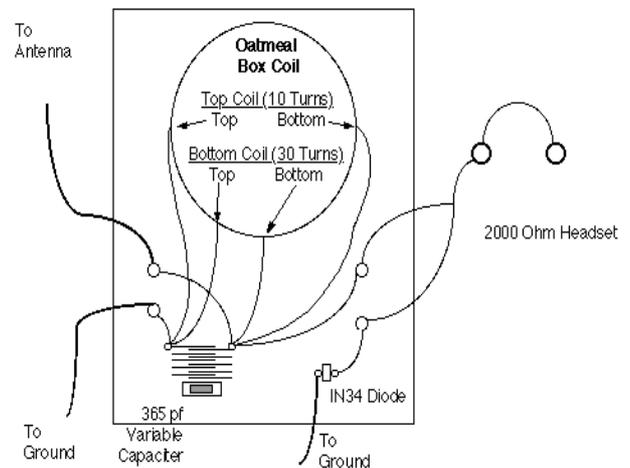
<http://members.aol.com/scottswim/index.html>

<http://www.bentongue.com/>

<http://www.olderadioworld.de/gollum/>

<http://www.clarion.org.au/crystalset/mystery.html>

http://www.streettech.com/archives_DIY/crystalSet.html



The above picture and diagram are from the http://www.streettech.com/archives_DIY/crystalSet.html website.

History of The SARA Field Day Power Generator

By Dan Whelan – N2UD

SARA has been operating “Field Day” since the very first ARRL Field Day back in 1933. Because operation in any emergency requires there to be a reliable source of emergency power the use of a reliable source of power is one of the most if not ABSOLUTELY THE MOST important piece of equipment at the field day site. Without a source of power it is basically time to break out a deck of cards or start singing around the campfire!

The June 2008 issue of QST even features an article on how to choose one of the new technology high efficiency inverter generators for a small field day or home station operation. Be sure to read this article and the supplementary info on the www.arrl.org website! But for purposes of this article I will talk about the generators that SARA has been using for field day for the last few decades.

Gasoline generators are typically the main source of power for almost all large field operations around the nation. In the early days SARA, apparently according to a few old SARA News references I have seen had use of several different small generators owned by members or in some cases made available by different organizations like local fire departments or the county Civil Defense establishment. While most AC power generators are somewhat plain devices some of them had real character. In the middle of SARA’s life in the early 1970s our club began to use a generator which our club can now claim an extraordinarily long relationship.....our mighty “green machine” which is our commercial quality and very “powerful” Onan 25 KW trailer mounted generator!

The history of how this generator came into the club begins with the local PBS TV station WMHT. WMHT – TV began its broadcasting life in Schenectady at the old Riverside School in the Stockade in the mid 1960s. By the early 1970’s it moved to it’s then new studio facility on Fern Avenue in Rotterdam. The station in those days operated a mobile production truck for doing local programs which included a relatively new Onan generator. From the beginning SARA, had a close



relationship with the station because many hams were then associated with getting the station on the air. Several of the key broadcast engineers, staff, and volunteers helped put the station on the air were hams and members of SARA. Among them the original founder and long time General Manager of WMHT TV&FM, Donald Schein WB2OCZ (sk). SARA Members also included Bill Coffey W2PX, Howard Lester W2ODC (sk) Rudy Dehn W2JVF, Vic Handy N2AQZ, Dave Edwards WA2GBO (now W2GBO) and many others. During those early years Bob Scheliman K2STP and later I (Dan Whelan then WB2WHD) served as the WMHT’s Chief Engineer and Engineering Manager.

The former WMHT mobile generator was on a custom heavy duty trailer and also served as the emergency power generator for the studio through the 1980s. The generator was made by Onan a major standby power generator manufacturer and it was manufactured in about 1968 and was based on a Ford 200 cubic inch six cylinder engine and it produced 110/220 and was conservatively rated at about 25 kilowatts continuous / 30 kilowatts standby (for 30 minutes). This generator served for about 15 years as the stations emergency generator for the TV studios. But as anyone who knows much about emergency generators is aware, emergency generators need to be run periodically and for a period of time under load to be reliable. Because running any broadcast TV facility on generator power is rather disruptive (due to changing power back and forth from AC mains to generator and back to mains again) few opportunities were available to do that for other than during actual power failures. So the station allowed SARA use the generator once a year for field day because it was an opportunity to test the generators reliability for the station. SARA members also did some maintenance on the generator in the process of giving it a much needed work out. This maintenance

was done by several of our members including Ernie Cave WB2VLF who professionally was a master mechanic. This arrangement went on for a number of years until in about 1985 when I was the Chief Engineer and was faced with increasing power demands by the growing TV studio complex which at the time housed WMHT TV, WMHT FM and WAMC-FM (a tenant at the time) and ended up replacing the 25 KW Onan gas generator which by then was often seriously overloaded with 30 KW plus of actual load on the generator during real power failures at the studio. I moved another generator a 75 KW Onan Propane generator which had just been removed from the TV transmitter site on Pinnacle Mountain in the Helderberg Mountains near Thatcher Park. That site had just been upgraded to full emergency power capability with a pair of 350 KW Onan diesel generators! So by 1985 the old Onan 25 KW gas generator which by then had seen many hundreds of hours of heavy standby emergency power service at the studio was tired and needed to be retired. Don Schein WB2OCZ (sk) as WMHT's General Manager arranged for the generator to be transferred to SARA where after some important renovations by our industrious members it was refurbished and portions of the generator's power distribution, and even the support timbers on the trailer were replaced. So by 1986 the trusty "Green Machine" 25 KW Onan became the key SARA power source that we still use for Field Day today. As of Field Day 2008 this generator has been a part of SARA's operations now for what will be about 36 years! That is about half of SARA's history and it is actually more than half of all of the ARRL Field Days that have been held since 1933 (less the WW2 years).

OTHER GENNYS - Although the 25 KW generator has usually provided all the power SARA has needed from the early 1970s until now, there have been a few times when there were power problems due to a technical problem. Nothing gets a field day operation's attention like the "SOUND OF SILENCE" and no power! In those few years when that happened a couple of member owned generators have come to the rescue and been pressed into service until the main generator was put back into operation. These generators have ranged from a couple of member owned generators including small 1200 watt portable generators to a somewhat larger 5500 watt generator. Generally running the radios and lights for a field day operation running five or so 100 watt transmitters and some minimal lights can be done with about 2500 watts or so but it is a little tricky. But luxuries like extra lighting and coffee makers take a bit more, but seldom does it come close to loading the 25 KW Onan to much more than 20% of its capability. By the way too little load on a generator can be a problem sometimes too because the generator has to have at least 5% load to maintain proper speed and sometimes voltage. Problems with voltage regulation and AC frequency are not uncommon when a generator's load is going on and off such as during transmitting CQ!

In addition to the regular generators there are some "Natural Power" sources which if they are used for a certain minimum number of contacts allow for an additional 100 bonus points for the clubs Field Day score. One sterling example was demonstrated a couple of years ago when Tim Long W2UI managed to construct a generator which ran on an all natural fuel ethanol. Now it is unclear what kind or what purity of alcohol Tim uses to run the generator, but it certainly does run and emits a clean burning and nice smelling byproduct. Sort of reminds one of the smell of some kind of bourbon..... or maybe some kind of corn squeezin's? Hmmmm? Our other natural power sources that make an appearance, usually on the second day of Field Day are usually solar panels. I usually set up a solar panel and large 12 battery which has been previously partially charged by solar energy from the solar panels. The N2UD solar panels are actually 45 watt ARCO brand solar panels that has been used for most of the last 10 or so years and they are each capable of producing up to 3 amps in full sun at a voltage sufficiently high enough to charge a high performance spiral wound 50 amp hour Optima type deep cycle storage battery. That power source is used typically to run either a 2 meter mobile or an ICOM IC-706 MkII 100 watt all mode rig to make the special natural power contacts. This operation has evolved from the first solar powered station I put on the air at the SARA Field Day back in the late 70s that was powered initially by a tiny 2 watt and later a 15 watt solar panel which generated a few hundred milliamps at nominal 12 volts and charged a 6 amp hour 12 volt gel cell. That provided enough power to operate a Kenwood TR2500 two watt handy talkie on simplex for the needed contacts.

Power, whether generator or natural power is the critical commodity of emergency operations. Your station should include some, so this year be sure to take a close look at what SARA runs!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
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	SARA Meeting – 7 PM Business/Election Meeting	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School
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	SARA Picnic 1 PM to 5 PM <i>(Further details to be announced)</i>	Greenfield Town Park located on Saratoga County Rt. 21 (Middle Grove Rd.
8 Sept 2008	SARA Meeting – 7 PM (First meeting of 08-09 yr.)	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School
13 Sept 2008	Saratoga County RACES Association Hamfest http://wa2umx.net Talk-In: 146.40/147.00 (PL 91.5)	Ballston Spa, NY Ballston Spa Fairgrounds
13-14 Sept 2008	ARRL Fall VHF runs 2pm Sat. – 11pm Sunday	See www.arrl.org for details
6 Oct 2008	SARA Meeting – 7 PM	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School
10-11 Oct 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 NEWS EDITORIAL

The 2007-2008 SARA year has come and now is wrapping up and for about the 78th time this old ham club can look back on a successful year. Much happens in a year for each of us and as a ham radio club as well. Over recent years we have lost some friends and we have made a few new ones as well. One thing seems to strike me as I reflect back on this past year of putting together SARA News, I think we all need to make a little effort to broaden our reach in the hobby. It isn't that we need new young people so much (although we certainly do), but I think we need to reach out a little to our close friends and families who may have passed amateur radio by over the years. This can be an intimidating hobby to some and to others it might seem a bit "cold" and very technical. Most of us who have been in ham radio for the long run know that it is also a great hobby with many pretty interesting people. The challenge for us all, is to remain genuine human beings, sensitive to others and kind hearted to all of those around us. We also need to welcome the new comers especially those of us who have been long time hams and know how contacts and operating procedures should be done. Showing by example is the best thing! So perhaps over the summer we can all make an effort to recruit a spouse and older son or daughter or maybe a grandson or neighbor into the hobby? While it might take a little effort it is indeed how we will all end up finding some new and interesting people in our hobby. Give it a try.....and maybe you will even meet a new friend on the air?

See you all at the SARA Field Day and the SARA Picnic in the Fall.

/Dan Whelan – N2UD SARA News Editor

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 w2csn@arrl.net 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 Editor: Dan Whelan n2ud@arrl.net 895-2754

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**

**Schenectady Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 449
Schenectady, NY 12301**