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November 2008

SARA Special Holiday Meeting, Monday December 1st, 2008 at 6:30PM
This month only at the Dragon Garden Buffet, 120 Mohawk Ave., Scotia NY

ANNUAL SARA HOLIDAY MEETING

At 6:30 pm in the Dragon Garden Buffet,

Located at 120 Mohawk Ave, Scotia, NY

*** *IMPORTANT CHANGE IN LOCATION* ***

Due to the unexpected closing of the Old Country Buffet the annual SARA Holiday Meeting will now be held in Scotia at the Dragon Garden Buffet located at 120 Mohawk Avenue in downtown Scotia. It is located on the same side of the street as the Dodge Dealership and Scotia Fire Department. It is on the opposite side of Mohawk Avenue (Route 5) as the movie theater.

The time will be 6:30 pm and our president Jim Stewart K2PK has reserved the back room for us. There will be a wide variety of Chinese and other foods. Please pay for your own buffet at the door and feel free to bring along a guest.

Next Month: SARA will return to our normal meeting place at the "Little Theater" in room D-104 in the rear of Niskayuna High School on Balltown Road in Niskayuna for our next regular meeting on Monday January 5, 2009 at 7 pm.

REMINDER: Schenectady Area S.A.R.A. K2AE ARES/RACES Nets

1:00 PM Local Sunday - 444.200 Mhz + 5.00 Mhz offset FM

1:30 PM Local Sunday - 147.060 Mhz + 600 Khz offset FM

2:00 PM Local Sunday - 3953 Khz +/- 5 Khz Lower Single Sideband

SARA MEMBER W2XM HAS ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN QEX

SARA member Bob Raffaele, W2XM, wrote "The Mystery of the Q-section...Revealed by a Science Teacher," which appears in the November/December 2008 issue of QEX, ARRL's publication for experimenters.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SARA MEMBERSHIP - SARA Membership for the 2008-2009 year needs to be renewed now. The meetings and activities of SARA are supported by your dues. So please take the time to fill out the renewal coupon on the back address page of SARA News and mail it to the address shown or bring it to the SARA meeting and give it to our Treasurer George Williams W2CSN.



ARRL Field Day 2008 - We Done Good!

By Tim Long – W2UI

The official results are out. SARA made a total of 1735 contacts and earned 1690 bonus points for a grand total of 7456 points. CW contacts outnumbered SSB contacts by 2 to 1. The big band was 20 meters for both modes. We ranked 7th nationally in class 5A, 6th overall in the Hudson Division, and 3rd overall in Eastern New York. Yes, we beat all of the local clubs. You can check out www.arrl.org for yourself if you're a member. Results will also be published in the December issue of QST.





SARA FIELD DAY 2008 (continued)

We only put up one tower, the crank-up on the trailer. Atop that was a Mosley TA-33 tribander that we used on CW, the only beam antenna. We bought new fiberglass poles and used full wave loop antennas for the 40, 20 and 15 meter bands. We had youth. We originated traffic. We copied the Field Day Message. The W2CSN GOTA station used the Schenectady County Emergency Vehicle as its home and a mix of wire antennas on top of George's aluminum mast. Several tons of crushed stone now greet you as you enter the site. Hopefully, it will continue to abate the mud for next year. A large amount of steel and aluminum remained on the ground. Miles of rope were strung in the air and it would have made Charlotte (as in Charlotte's Web) proud. The generator performed flawlessly. The rigs all behaved. Computer scoring made life easier. We remembered to take pictures of everything. The food was great and plentiful. Many hands made the work load lighter. We even had energy left to operate. We done good! We had fun! Is everybody ready for next year? / Tim, W2UI
 (Editors Note: Field Day 2009 is June 27&28)



SARA BOARD MEETING - NOVEMBER 12, 2008

Location Eng Building, Union College, Schenectady, NY
Attending:

Jim Stewart President K2PK

VP Frank Simon WB2PUH

Secretary Hal Post AK2E

Treasurer George Williams W2CSN

Board Members:

Dan Fiorillo KC2MER

Bill Mischler KG2AC

7:10 PM Meeting called to Order by President Stewart.

7:12 PM Secretary Report given and accepted

7:16 PM Treasurer report given and accepted.

7:18 Old Business:

W2ODC Committee: report Frank no progress on presentation piece.

Edison Exploratorium: No report given.

UP coming meetings: Frank reports that the Dec. meeting will be buffet get together. Location?

Repeater: Gathering info on replacement equipment in progress.

7:15 New Business:

Broughton Committee: Last years recipient automatically becomes chairman.

Discussion on Membership and board meetings were discussed. Tabled until next board meeting.

News letter: The board approves the way the news letter is being done. It also wants to have more member articles published. Members are encouraged to write articles and submit them to the news editor Dan N2UD. (Any topic or experience will be appreciated.)

January Board Meeting will be at Friendlys. (near Niskayuna High School)

7:50 Adjourned meeting.

Submitted by: Hal Post AK2E Secretary

SARA Ham Christmas Gift Ideas?



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
1 Dec 2008	<i>SARA Meeting – 6:30 PM Holiday Dinner Meeting</i>	Dragon Garden Buffet in downtown Scotia; 120 Mohawk Ave (Route 5) in Scotia, NY
5-6 Dec 2008	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Rules See ARRL Website
13-14 Dec 2008	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Rules See ARRL Website
1 Jan 2009	Straight Key Night	
3 Jan 2009	Kids Day	
3-4 Jan 2009	ARRL RTTY Round-Up	Rules See ARRL Website
5 Jan 2009	SARA Meeting – 7 PM (First meeting of 2009)	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School Balltown Road, Niskayuna NY
17-19 Jan 2009	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes All bands above 50 Mhz	Rules See ARRL Website Starts 2:00 pm EST Saturday Ends 11:59 pm EST Sunday

Be sure to check out the ARRL Hamfest calendar for more detailed informations. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>

Holiday Blatant Commercialism & Expand Your Horizons – Ham Radio Style!

Editorial by Dan Whelan – N2UD

Well it is the holiday season and it is no surprise that everyone of hams is thinking about new ham radio toys! But you know if you are just thinking about new radios you are missing the boat! What you really need to get the real fun out of this hobby is to make friends and learn about the technology! To do that all you need to do is spend a little bit of money and some time! One of the best things around is to hang around with other hams at hamfests or club meetings. Join your local ham radio club and talk with the people there! They have interests in many of the same areas that you do plus some others that you may have never even heard of! Our ham club the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association is a great and historic ham club with a 79 year history, but don't feel limited to belonging to just one club, consider additional groups one that might be near where you work or perhaps a specialty ham group that does DXing (like Yankee Clipper), AMSAT or VHF & Microwave groups (Mt Greylock Expeditionary Force or North East Weak Signal groups) or perhaps get involved with our RACES or ARES groups and on air net operations where there is plenty of good work to be done in public service events throughout the year. These organizations are great to find people to talk to about things you find interesting plus they can be very educational too. Next you should join the ARRL for a couple excellent reasons, first they publish QST which is worth the price of the membership all by itself! Next ARRL is one of the only reasons this hobby exists today in the midst of heavy handed commercial interests. If the ARRL were to disappear this hobby would all but disappear within just a couple years as commercial interests would take our spectrum or it would become useless for making contacts due to interference almost before our eyes. Saying you are interested in healthy ham radio is not enough, ARRL really helps make it all come together though so many activities and publications. You should also subscribe to several other ham radio magazines of your choosing. Natural choices include CQ or CQ VHF because they are the great publications as are some other ones on specialty topics such as ARRL's QEX, Contest Journal or World Radio Magazine. These also make great gift idea to suggest to someone who could order the subscriptions for you (or in the case of ARRL (1-888-277-5289) there are gift certificates that can be used on membership or other publications!)

So lets see, if go out and spend maybe \$20 to \$100 dollars to belong to ham organizations and subscribe to ham magazines... is the "blatant commercialism"? Heck no! I think you know why, because it will be fun, you will learn stuff about ham radio and you will help both the ham radio hobby, our community and nation! And of course it will make the ham radio hobby more vital and you'll have more to talk about during a QSO other than just the latest rig you got! /73's & Merry Christmas Dan Whelan - N2UD

SARA's Board Of Directors 2008-2009

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Family Member \$5 _____ Student Member \$5 _____ SARA News US postal delivery Add \$5 _____

Name _____ Callsign _____

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Street _____ I belong to ARRL ___ ARES ___ RACES ___

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

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