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February 2009

SARA General Meeting, Monday February 2nd , 2009 at 7:00PM  
in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 at Niskayuna High School

## DOPPLER RADAR

This months SARA Meeting program will be on the development of Doppler Radar and its use by the broadcast media, the FAA and the National Weather Service for severe storm detection and accurate weather track forecasting.

### About The SARA Meeting Location

The normal SARA meeting location for 2008-09 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. Due to major school construction at the front main entrance of the school there are changes once again this year in parking and the traffic pattern for access to the rear parking lot. Access to the school's rear parking lot can 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 Street 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.

In the event of a major snow storm or another serious condition that cancels Niskayuna High School for evening classes and activities, the SARA meeting will normally be cancelled for that evening. Tune to the SARA K2AE 147.06 repeater for further information about the status of the meeting and if it is to be rescheduled from one of the SARA Officers: Jim - K2PK, Frank - WB2PUH, Hal - AK2E or George - W2CSN or SARA board members: Dan - KC2MER, Bill - KG2AC, Bob - WB2ARK or Bill - KC2NXC.

### IN THIS MONTHS "SARA NEWS EXTRA":

This month SARA News Extra will feature a reprint (by permission) of a recent QEX article "The Mystery of the Q Section" by Bob Raffaele W2XM. QEX is a technical and experimenters publication of ARRL which has a variety of articles on technical and theoretical aspects of interest to hams. Also there will be a sampling of ARRL bulletins and other recent items.

**RENEW YOUR SARA MEMBERSHIP** - 2009 is now here and the SARA membership year is half over for the 2008-2009 year. SARA membership should have renewed this past September! The meetings and activities of SARA are supported by your dues so please do your part. 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.

## **INTERNET IN OUTER SPACE**

*This is one of NASA's latest robust packet space communications system project sounds very similar to what hams were doing with early AX.25 protocol packet more than a quarter century ago! That included a small group of SARA hams including W2DHT, W1GP, KB2HQ, N2AIG, WB2WHD and later many others as packet caught on by the late 1980s. Back in the mid-1980s we were trying to implement the first interconnectivity via sometimes very marginal VHF paths to provide the very first local/regional packet radio network link-ups in and out of this part of the country...Perhaps not unlike another planet?. Dan N2UD (ex-WB2WHD) – SARA News Editor.*

Engineers from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., used software called Disruption-Tolerant Networking, or DTN, to transmit dozens of space images to and from a NASA science spacecraft located more than 32 million kilometers (20 million miles) from Earth. The successful experiment could pave the way for an interplanetary Internet, able to support complex missions involving multiple landed, mobile and orbiting spacecraft, as well as providing reliable communications for astronauts on the moon's surface. NASA and Vint Cerf, a vice president at Google, Inc., in Mountain View, Calif., partnered 10 years ago to develop the DTN software protocol, which unlike TCP/IP does not assume a continuous end-to-end connection. In DTN, data packets are not discarded if a destination path can't be found. Instead, each network node keeps custody of the information as long as necessary, until it can safely communicate with another node. This store-and-forward method ensures that information does not get lost when no immediate path to the destination exists.

The experiment is the first in a series of planned demonstrations to qualify the technology for use on various upcoming space missions, according to Jay Wyatt, manager of the Space Networking and Mission Automation Program Office at JPL. In the next round of testing, a NASA-wide demonstration using new DTN software loaded onboard the International Space Station is scheduled to begin next summer. For more info visit <http://link.abpi.net/l.php?20081125A2> to learn more.

## **FCC Names Attorney Laura L. Smith to Amateur Radio Enforcement Role**

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service. Smith is a 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law. Smith returns to the FCC after serving with the MD law firm of Shulman Rogers.

## **SARA BOARD MINUTES:**

SARA Board Meeting held 14 January 2009 Location: Friendlys Nisk'y, NY

Present: Dan F. KC2MER, Bob S WB2ARK, Frank S WB2PUH, Bill M KG2AC, Jim S K2PK

Called to order by President Stewart at 7:08 PM

- Jim K2PK reported: Hal and Antje will attend the Hudson Division Staff and Club Presidents meeting in Paramus, NJ 7 Feb. Frank may join them.
- Storage space is needed for tables that are presently located at W2CSN's.
- George W2CSN is planning moving to Sunny Cal. Therefore a Treasurer will be needed before the big move. Any paid up club members interested in the position please contact any SARA Board member ASAP.
- Membership renewal reminder methods were discussed
- Dan KC2MER reported: He is trying to contact John N2OJY for status of Broughton pins and medals. Also Jim and Dan to get together with John.
- Next Board meeting tentatively on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of Feb at Friendlys in Niskayuna.
- DTV Will be brought up at the next Membership meeting per FCC request.
- Continued discussion on membership, meeting location etc.
- Meeting notes were taken by Bill KG2AC in Secretary's absence.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
<b>2 Feb 2009</b>	<b>SARA Meeting – 7 PM (First meeting of 2009)</b>	<b>Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School</b>
21-22 Feb 2009	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)	<a href="#">Rules</a>
7-8 Mar 2009	ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)	<a href="#">Rules</a>
30 May 2009	75 <sup>th</sup> Rochester Hamfest www.rochesterham.org"	New site: Barnard Carnival Grounds
27-28 June 2009	ARRL Field Day / SARA Field Day	

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

### Ham Equipment Available

SARA Has been contacted by Halsey Brown in Glenville and he indicates that his elderly father has ham equipment available. The equipment includes a Hallicrafters receiver and a Johnson Viking Navigator transmitter both of fifties or early sixties vintage. There is also a Johnson 1000 W Matchbox. Contact Halsey Brown – Phone tel.# (518) 312-2012.

### Silent Keys

**Bill Mekeljohn – W2EHS** - It is with sadness that we note that this past month the passing of a long time SARA member Bill Mekeljohn K2EHS of Scotia, NY who was among the many who worked at GE CR&D.

**Ruth Lester - XYL of W2ODC** - On January 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 SARA received word of the loss after a long illness of Ruth Lester wife of the late Howard Lester W2ODC (SK) former President and long time board member of SARA as well as mother of Carl Lester K2YR also a long time SARA member. She was known to many SARA members and former officers as a gracious supporter of Howard and the many meetings held at the Lester home for ham radio and SARA business.

### Draper Middle School Looking for Ham Club Assistance

Dear fellow hams,

I work at Draper Middle School in the Mohonasen school district and am in the process of starting a ham radio club at the school. According to one of the members of our Mohonasen Foundation, Craig Radliff, a GE engineer, we may be able to secure some GE corporate funding for this project. Craig is looking to make contact with hams who are employed by GE. If you support the idea of a new ham radio club in a local middle school and work for GE, Craig wants to hear from you. If he can get enough GE employees supporting this endeavor, we may be able to receive a much needed start up grant. Your support in this matter is critical. Please contact Craig Radliff at (GE Infra, Energy) [craig.radliff@ge.com]. Or, you may contact me, Larry McGrath, at 356-8375 or lmcgrath@mohonasen.org. Thank you in advance for your support in this very important matter. **Sincerely: Larry McGrath- WA2RNY**

### Rochester Hamfest Will Be Held Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 at New Location

SARA has been contacted by Frank Schramm WB2PYD the President of the Rochester Amateur Radio Assn. to let us know about major changes in location for the Rochester Hamfest. The Rochester Hamfest will now be held Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Barnard Carnival Grounds. Further details are available at the clubs official website, "www.rochesterham.org". The Official Rochester Hamfest information flyer is at: [http://www.rochesterham.org/Documents/2009\\_Rochester\\_Hamfest-Flyer.pdf](http://www.rochesterham.org/Documents/2009_Rochester_Hamfest-Flyer.pdf) We were also cautioned that there has been some unauthorized activity among some who were formerly involved with this hamfest and hams should be careful to only buy tickets at the gate or get hamfest info only from the official club website.

## SARA's Board Of Directors 2008-2009

President: James Stewart K2PK [k2pk@arrl.net](mailto:k2pk@arrl.net) 399-1867  
VicePres.: Frank Simon WB2PUH [simonf072@strose.edu](mailto:simonf072@strose.edu) 477-5255  
Sec: Hal Post AK2E [ak2e@arrl.net](mailto:ak2e@arrl.net) 584-6441  
Treas: George Williams W2CSN [w2csn@arrl.net](mailto:w2csn@arrl.net) 377-6188

### Directors

Dan Fiorillo KC2MER [fiorillo.dan@verizon.net](mailto:fiorillo.dan@verizon.net) 356-3595  
Bill Mischler KG2AC [kg2ac@juno.com](mailto:kg2ac@juno.com) 370-1350  
Bob Saltzman WB2ARK [saltzman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:saltzman@nycap.rr.com) 370-2222  
Bill Proctor KC2NXC [iproctor@nycap.rr.com](mailto:iproctor@nycap.rr.com) 372-1058

## SARA's Standing Committees

**SARA News Editor:** Dan Whelan [n2ud@arrl.net](mailto:n2ud@arrl.net) 895-2754  
**K2AE Trustee:** Hal Post AK2E [ak2e@arrl.net](mailto:ak2e@arrl.net) 584-6441  
**Rptr:** Scott Krone N2YCA [n2yca@nycap.rr.com](mailto:n2yca@nycap.rr.com) 273-1610  
**RFI:** Rudy Dehn W2JVF [w2jvf@juno.com](mailto:w2jvf@juno.com) 372-6139  
**Public Service:** Ken Clikeman AA2CW  
[free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com](mailto:free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com) 861-6825  
**VE Team:** Bill Mischler KG2AC [kg2ac@juno.com](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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