

SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH
AMATEUR RADIO"**

FOUNDED 1930

K2AE REPEATERS

<http://www.k2ae.org/>

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September, 2012

General Meeting, September 10th, 2012 at 7 PM, Niskayuna High School Little Theatre

Sub to Surface Communications

with Randy Stein KL7TJZ.

The SARA board is pleased to announce that our guest speaker for September will be Randy Stein KL7TJZ. Randy's talk will be about submarine communication with a surface fleet while being submerged. We may also have a brief talk by Joyce Birmingham KA2ANF, ARRL Hudson division director who is running for re-election. For SARA members who are league member this is a reminder to vote. Here it DOES make a difference!

Cancellations: If Niskayuna High School cancels evening classes and activities the SARA meeting will normally also be cancelled and possibly rescheduled. Listen in on the SARA 147.060 repeater for meeting status information and whether it is to be rescheduled.

The SARA meeting will be held Monday, September 10th, 2012 at 7 PM in the Little Theatre of the Niskayuna High School on Balltown Road. Attendees should enter the school through the cafeteria entrance located on the side of the school, adjacent to the Nott Street Extension school parking lot.

President's Welcome

de Jim, K2PK

It is mid-August; and fall is almost upon us. That means the start of SARA meetings for a new season. We had some difficulty arranging the meeting room in Niskayuna High School and I reserved the Price Chopper Community Room at 1639 Eastern Parkway as backup. Niskayuna finally was resolved, and after consideration of the pros and cons the board has decided to continue with the Little Theatre at Niskayuna High School for all the meetings of 2012/2013 except for the December dinner. The Price Chopper room was recommended to me by some of our members last season because of easier accessibility for those who have difficulty with getting around on stairs. On the other hand, the Eastern Parkway location would require crossing Eastern Parkway in the dark which some did not find appealing. Niskayuna is better for formal talks, but Price Chopper would allow us to have coffee or other refreshments and may be more conducive to us informally visiting with one another. You win some and lose some, and after a few go-arounds by e-mail we settled on Niskayuna.

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I really want to strongly promote mingling and getting to know each other better at the SARA meetings. Maybe I am not in the mainstream of SARA thinking, but my main reason for attending SARA meetings is just to be with other hams and be able to visit a bit. We can inspire one another to bigger, better, and newer things in amateur radio that way. There are always new adventures (and misadventures?) to try. Why else am I still active on the air after 58 years as a ham?

Please help with welcoming visitors and newcomers. My own SARA experience is visiting a few meetings when my family and I moved to the area 34 years ago. The club was much larger then and I had difficulty getting anybody interested in talking to me so I could become part of the club. The result was paying dues for many years but attending few meetings. We are smaller now and can't afford to let people drift away because they don't feel we want them.

The meeting schedule is the same as last year: first Monday of the month at 7 pm unless the first Monday is a holiday or the school is closed for some other reason, in which case it becomes the second Monday. Board meetings will still be the second Wednesday of the month at LT's in Niskayuna. See you in September.

Jim K2PK

Volunteer Examiner Session

SARA conducts VE sessions at 6:00 PM on regular meeting nights, the first non-holiday Monday of each month except July, August, and December. Those interested in taking an exam are encouraged to contact Bill Mischler, KG2AC, a few days prior to the date, so he can arrange for sufficient VEs to be present. You can find Bill's contact information on the last page.

September Board Meeting Announced

The next Board Meeting will take place at 7 PM on Wednesday September 19, 2012 at LT's Restaurant at Balltown and Nott Street

W2ODC Vibroplex award

Eric Lester AI7AA, Buckley, WA

I have been cleaning up Dad's (W2ODC SK) Vibroplex bug that was presented to him in 1987 by SARA. Just in case anyone is interested, I wrote a little bit about it and included some photos. Please forward this email and link as you see fit. I'll add some of the finished product soon, by the way.

If anyone remembers this presentation and has any information about it, I'd love to add that to my piece about Dad and the bug.

The web page is located here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/arsn7ggj/soapbox/vibroplex>

SARA Dues Reminder

Have you paid your dues yet? The SARA membership year runs from July to June and the 2012-2013 dues are due. Please use the form on the last page or see Tim, W2UI, treasurer at the meeting.

A Reminder from Your Editor:

Please send me your articles, pictures and comments for SARA News. My email addresses are antje1@yahoo.com or kc2dtp@gmail.com If you have articles or pictures in paper form, please send them to me at:

Antje Dirksen-Post, P.O.Box 31, Sodus NY 14551.

I will gladly scan them into digital form and add them to SARA News.

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SARA FIELD DAY 2012

Tim, W2UI

I don't need to remind the 30 or so members that participated in Field Day that they had fun. They already know that! By almost every measure, Field Day was a huge success. We found a new site and everybody liked it. We saved money by not having to rent a porta-potti. The Niskayuna Recreation Board is happy that their facility was used for such a good community purpose. We were invited back. We found out that the site has good propagation



and low noise. It is centrally located and convenient for emergency gas and ice runs. The SARA generator ran flawlessly. C100 has a new generator which also ran flawlessly and is large enough to run both air conditioners. We qualified for almost all bonus points. We tried for the satellite bonus; we'll get it next year. The GOTA station made 30 contacts. We didn't have the opportunity to test the drainage of the field (the weather was fantastic). The watermelon was sweet and cold. We have a list of good ideas to

improve the effort for next year.

Mr. Cranky Pants reports that participation was down. We didn't get on the air fully until around 4PM on Saturday. We only made 727 Q's total on all bands and all modes (not including the GOTA). Back in the 80's, we would make that many contacts



on one band! We ran all 5 stations for a fraction of the 24 hour period. The relatively few that showed up worked way too hard and didn't have the energy to sustain radio operations throughout the night. Relief operators didn't show up.

Suggested changes for next year include: (1) Eliminate the tent and the work required to put it up. The pavilion is long enough to put food and socialization at the kitchen end and radio operations at the opposite end. Center the antenna plan on the radio end of the pavilion. (2) Replace full-wave loop antennas with half-wave inverted vees. It's difficult to intertwine loop wires with guy ropes. (3) Start serving food with lunch on Friday. When people leave to eat, it's at least



an hour before we get them back, if they come back at all. (4) Measure and permanently label the lengths of all coaxial cable. Originally they were all measured and cut to optimally fit the antenna plan. (5) Figure out a support for the SSB triband beam that is easy to put up. No steel towers and no fiberglass poles. We need a beam antenna on both CW and SSB. (6) Configure the power distribution cables so that one cable can be used as an extension for another. (7) Insert your idea for increasing participation here...

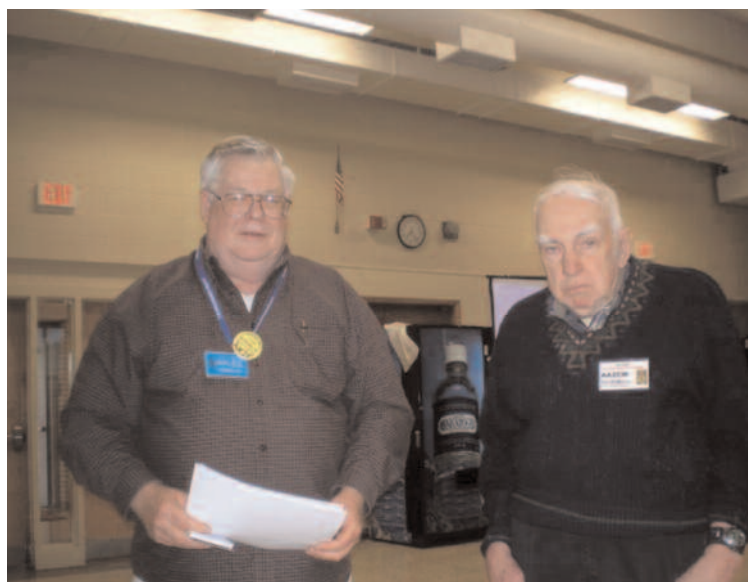
That's all for now. Our score has been submitted to the ARRL. It will be interesting to see how we fare. Field Day 2013 will be held on the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd. Save the date.

73, Tim, W2UI

Public Service

Ken, AA2CW

Ken Clikeman AA2CW reported on the members who served at the Alpaus Parade on July 4th, 2012 NT2B, K2RI, W2JVF, KB2NXC, W2SID, K2UYK, KC2QCW, AA2CW, KB2SWR and KG2AO were amateur radio volunteers in the Alpaus Parade.



Ken AA2CW receiving SARA's Service Award

Broughton Award 2012



Jim K2PK receiving 2012 Broughton Award



Broughton Award Scholarship Winners for 2012

Recipients for 2012 K2AE Broughton Scholarship are listed below. Their pictures are in the Sept 2012 issue QST, pages 96 and 97.

Marc Robbins KC2MJD Bedford, NY
 Bryan Ennis KJ4IXD Franklyn, TN
 Erin King AK4JG Columbus, GA
 Dillion Lisk KJ4TIP Fort Mill, SC

Board Of Directors

Pres: James Stewart K2PK k2pk@arrl.net 399-1867VP: Craig Wood, W2XAD, w2xad@nycap.rr.com, 370-5224
 Sec: Dan Fiorillo KC2MER fiorillo.dan@verizon.net 356-3595
 Treas: Tim Long, W2UI, tlong1@earthlink.net 399-7454

Directors

Hal Post AK2E ak2e@arrl.net 306-6817
 Al Kozakiewicz, AB2ZY akozak@hourglass.com
 Frank Simon, WB2PUH, simonf072@strose.edu, 477-5255
 Ken Day, K2DAY k2day@nycap.rr.com, 858-2056

Standing Committees

SARA News: Antje Dirksen-Post N2OMA, antje1@yahoo.com, 315-483-0524
 Elmer: Tim Long, W2UI, tlong8@nycap.rr.com, 399-7454
 Antenna Party: Tim Long, tlong8@nycap.rr.com, 399-7454
 K2AE Trustee: Hal Post AK2E ak2e@arrl.net 381-6817
 Rptr: Scott Krone N2YCA n2yca@nycap.rr.com 273-1610
 RFI/TVI: Rudy Dehn W2JVF w2jvf@juno.com 372-6139
 Public Service Events: Ken Clikeman AA2CW
AA2CW2010@yahoo.com 861-6825
 VE Team: Bill Mischler KG2AC kg2ac@juno.com 982-0144

FCC Exam Registration (518) 982-0144



SARA
 Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Regular Dues	\$20.00	\$ _____
Spouse	\$5.00	\$ _____
Student	\$5.00	\$ _____
Repeater Donation		\$ _____
Initiation Fee	\$5.00*	\$ _____
Name _____	Call _____	
E-mail _____		
Street _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Phone _____		
ARRL _____	RACES _____	ARES _____ MARS _____

Send to SARA, PO Box 449, Schenectady, NY 12301
 July, 2012 through June, 2013

SARA/K2AE Repeaters

Status	ON AIR	ON AIR	OFF AIR	ON AIR
Band	6-Meters	2-Meters	1.25-Meters	70-Centimeters
User TX	52.570 MHz	147.660 MHz	222.460 MHz	449.200 MHz
User RX	53.570 MHz	147.060 MHz	224.060 MHz	444.200 MHz

Schenectady County Emergency Net

Band	Repeater	Time	NCS
70cm	444.200Mhz+	1:00 PM	Raleigh K2RI
2m	147.060Mhz+	1:30 PM	Raleigh K2RI
75m	3953KHz	2:00 PM	TBA

Schenectady County Emergency Net

SARA members act as Net Control Stations for the Schenectady County Emergency Net (SCEN) on Sunday afternoons. The nets are open to all amateurs; ARES RACES membership is not required to participate. The purpose of the nets is to train, pass any traffic that you might have and any announcements of general interest.