
SARA NEWS

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

A Message from the President

As I look outside it seems cold and damp. Summer is gone and cooler weather means less antenna raising time.

As the time goes by, raising antennas in foul weather is NOT my choice but I have done it.

My advice is don't. We still may have some nice days ahead of us so we should make the best of what we have.

This is a far cry from field day so be glad that the league never considered December 27th for the event!

I am thinking of a January 1st field day. NOT!

73 from W2XAD

Sara Dues Reminder

2015 - 2016 Membership Dues are Due

The SARA membership year runs from July to June and the 2015-2016 dues are due. The upcoming meeting would be a great time to pay your dues and get current.

Your dues are important to this club. Your dues help support the operation and maintenance of our repeaters, pay for our Club insurance, and Field Day activities to name a few. Other than dues our income is sparse.

Please use the form on the last page or see Tim, W2UI, our Treasurer at the next meeting.

SARA General Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2015, 7:00 pm

“Off-Grid Solar as a Power Source”

Presented by Ben Sheron, KC2OTS

This presentation will be about off-grid solar power systems, meaning ones that can operate independent of the power grid.

Topics covered will include the different pieces of equipment such as photovoltaic panels and batteries, as well as what to consider when putting a system together.

This is geared towards smaller systems, such as what one may use to power a ham shack as opposed to an entire house or cabin.

Our Speaker: Ben Sheron, KC2OTS

Ben is an electrical engineer for GE Energy Storage, where he has worked for over three years.

He has a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology, and is presently working on his Master's Degree at Union Graduate College.

Ben has been a licensed ham since 2005, and has been interested in renewable energy since high school.



Meeting Location

SARA meetings are held in the Little Theatre of the Niskayuna High School on Balltown Road unless otherwise noted.

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.

Cancellations

If Niskayuna High School cancels evening classes and activities the SARA meeting will also be cancelled.

www.niskyschools.org
for school closing information.

SARA Board Meeting

September Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2015

Present:

Jim Stewart, K2PK Secretary
 James MacMurray N2UZQ Board Member
 John Comanzo, KD2FVN - Board Member
 Dave Bradshaw, KD2FVM - Board Member

Five members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at all Board meetings. Because there was not a quorum, an Official Board meeting was not conducted.

Guests are always welcome to attend our Board Meetings. Our meetings are typically held at:

LT's Grill
 2305 Nott Street
 St. James Square Niskayuna

It's not necessary, but recommended, to contact the SARA President or any Board Member/Officer ahead of time and let us know you will be attending. This way we can inform you of any location and/or schedule changes.

Save the Date for November!

I got a phone call from a poor tired ham named Mike (N2YBB Hudson Division Director) from Long Island. That guy was exasperated and then I knew why. He said every time I send you an email it bounces. He said go to the ARRL website and check your settings, so I did and found out that I filled in the form wrong and we, yes we fixed it. Poor guy.

He told me that he will be visiting us in November and to let everyone know, yes everyone, that he was inviting ALL of the Capital District hams to the SARA meeting not for October but **November!**

Being a 300+ mile round trip he would like to make just one or so trips to upstate. I said he could move upstate but that didn't sit well with his better half. Must be the bagels!

So if you can, lets tell all of our hams near and far to join us at the Little Theater for the November meeting I hope we can help Mike out in this matter. 73 from W2XAD

Calendar of Events

October 5 at 7PM

SARA General Meeting

October 14 at 7PM

SARA Board Meeting

Upcoming Hamfests

TONY W2BEJ's WORLD FAMOUS 2015 HAMFEST LIST:

[http://www.n2ty.org/
 links_page/hamfests.htm](http://www.n2ty.org/links_page/hamfests.htm)

Website

Visit the club's website at:
<http://www.k2ae.org>

ARRL VEC Reminds License Applicants: The FCC is Now Paperless!

The ARRL VEC is reminding Amateur Radio license applicants that the FCC no longer routinely prints or mails license documents. In an effort to streamline its procedures and save money, the FCC went “paperless” in February 2015.

Get all the details and read the full article at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-vec-reminds-license-applicants-the-fcc-is-now-paperless>

Need to Obtain an Official FCC License Copy?

There are a number of ways a license holder can obtain an official FCC copy of their license. The official license will display the FCC logo and the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed across each page of an official authorization from FCC. Please note that FCC stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on “standard, white recycled paper.” The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

Full instructions are here:

<http://www.arrl.org/obtain-license-copy>

A printer friendly version of these instructions can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/Obtain%20License%20Copy%202015.pdf>

Phishing Scheme Targeting ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service Participants

A phishing scheme currently afoot has been targeting ARRL members who have signed up for the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service and have an @arrl.net e-mail alias.

An e-mail from “Arrl Webmail Admin” with the subject line “ACCOUNT UPGRADE” was received September 25 by an unknown number of members who use @arrl.net e-mail aliases.

The e-mail, which requests that recipients reply by providing their usernames and passwords, did not come from the ARRL, and anyone receiving this sort of message should delete it and not reply. The ARRL would never distribute an e-mail requesting personal information.

Get all the details and read the full article at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/phishing-scheme-targeting-arrl-e-mail-forwarding-service-participants>

Tips to Protect Your Email

E-mail is a terrific form of communication for keeping in touch with family, friends, and business associates. However, using email unwisely may make you and your computer susceptible to spam, phishing scams, viruses, and other online threats. Here are some tips to avoid these problems:

1. Share your e-mail address with only trusted sources. Only your family, friends, and trusted business contacts should have your personal e-mail address. Do not post your e-mail address on Web sites, forums, or in chat rooms. If you post your e-mail address, you are vulnerable to receiving spam or having your e-mail passed on to others. If you would like to subscribe to a newsletter or Web site and receive confirmation e-mail for online transactions, consider using a generic e-mail address that is not linked to any of your personal information.
2. Be careful when opening attachments and downloading files from friends and family or accepting unknown e-mails. You can obtain a virus, worm, or Trojan simply by opening e-mail and attachments, and by accepting files from your friends, family, or others. If you choose to download files, make sure your security software is enabled and pay close attention to any warnings provided.
3. Watch out for phishing scams. Phishing scams use fraudulent e-mails and fake Web sites, masquerading as legitimate businesses, to lure unsuspecting users into revealing private account or login information. To be safe, if you receive an e-mail from a business that includes a link to a Web site, make certain that the Web site you visit is legitimate. Instead of clicking through to the Web site from within the e-mail, open a separate Web browser and visit the business' Web site directly to perform the necessary actions.
4. Use e-mail wisely. E-mail is a great way to keep in touch with friends and family, and as a tool to conduct business. Even if you have good security software on your PC, your friends and family might not have the same protection. Be careful about what information you submit via e-mail. Never send your credit-card information, Social Security number, or other private information via e-mail.
5. Do not reply to spam e-mail. If you don't recognize the sender, don't respond. Even replying to spam mail to unsubscribe could set you up for more spam.
6. Create smart and strong passwords. Make it difficult for hackers to crack your password. You can create a smart password by incorporating capital letters, numbers, special characters and using more than eight characters.
7. Be careful when you enter your personal information into a pop-up screen. Sometimes a phisher will direct you to a real organization's Web site, but then an unauthorized pop-up screen created by the scammer will appear, with form fields in which to provide your personal information. If you fill it in, your information will go to the phisher. You can install pop-up blocking software to help prevent this type of phishing attack.
8. If you're using web-based email, log out or sign off from your account when you've finished looking at/sending your email.

K2AE Repeaters Guidelines

K2AE Repeaters are open and visitor friendly.

1. There will be a control operator monitoring at all times. If there is no control operator, the repeater will be unavailable. (97.103 and 97.105)
2. Control operators will not discourage anyone from using the repeater.
3. Conduct on the repeaters should be governed by common sense and courtesy. Conversations should be in plain language and suitable for all listeners. (97.112 and .113)
4. No commercial business use is allowed.
5. Pause a few seconds between transmissions. The repeater will recycle. This gives a chance for other users or emergency traffic to call in. (Give even a longer pause in Winter.)
6. If someone calls "Break", operators will yield the frequency for emergency traffic. Yielding to a "breaking" or new station is common courtesy. New York State and Federal law prohibit interference with emergency traffic.
7. Operators are encouraged to use simplex whenever possible. Operators are encouraged to use the minimum power necessary to maintain clear contact, i.e. 50 Watts or more is not appropriate in close proximity to the repeater when 1 or 5 watts achieve full quieting. (97.313)
8. Use of the repeater for non-SARA public service events is prohibited unless permission from the Trustee is obtained. Please forward requests to: ak2e@arrl.net.
9. In the event of an emergency (SKYWARN, flooding, weather conditions or other emergencies) control operators will turn the repeater on if it is down.

Volunteers Needed!

I spoke to TARA President, Karen KS2O, and she is looking for a few good volunteers for three upcoming events:

1. The Mohawk Hudson River Marathon, Sunday, October 11th. The race starts at approximately 8:00 am.
2. The Pumpkin Patrol, Friday, October 30th and Saturday October 31st. Karen needs to cover a lot of bridges over the Thruway so if you can, please volunteer.
3. The Stockade-athon, Sunday November, 8th. The race starts at approximately 8:00 am.

If you wish to help please call or email Karen KS2O (ks2o@n2ty.org) or Tony Pazzola W2BEJ and they can fill you in on all of these upcoming events and their start times.

So if you can, please help! Remember all of us are for public service!

73 from W2XAD

2015 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

If you can help out with one of these events please contact Tony Pazzola - W2BEJ for more information.

Note: You don't need to own a radio to participate in one of the Public Service Events. The club can supply a radio to use.

- May 3 Schenectady Crop Walk
- May 3 Literacy Run/Walk, RPI Tech Park
- May 16 Niska Day
- May 20 Scotia Parade, Mohawk Ave, Scotia
- May 21 Rotterdam Parade
- May 21 CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge, Albany
- May 22 Maplewood Parade
- May 25 Watervliet Parade, Watervliet
- May 30 Freihofer's Run for Women
- June 7 Tour de Cure
- June 7 Run For Help, Goff Middle School, East Greenbush
- July 4 Alplaus Parade
- Sept 12 Mud Run (RAID Series)
- Sept 19 Bike MS: Hudson River Ramble
- Sept 26 Race For Hope, 5K Race For Cancer, Slingerlands
- Sept 27 Dunkin Run (Bagel Run), Albany JCC
- Sept 27 Arsenal Run, Watervliet

- Oct 11 Mohawk Hudson River Marathon

- Oct 30 Pumpkin Patrol (Bridges on the NYS Thruway)

- Oct 31 Pumpkin Patrol (Bridges on the NYS Thruway)

- Nov 8 Stockade-athon, Schenectady

- Nov 21 Schenectady Christmas (HOLIDAY) parade

List subject to change. More information and updates to follow.

Board of Directors/Officers

President

Craig Wood - W2XAD
 Email: w2xad1@verizon.net
 Phone: 370-5224

Vice President

Jim Silva - KC2ZVK
 Email: jsilva.NY@gmail.com
 Phone: 877-8032

Secretary

James Stewart - K2PK
 Email: k2pk@arrl.net
 Phone: 399-1867

Treasurer

Tim Long - W2UI
 Email: tlong1@earthlink.net
 Phone: 399-7454

Director

Paul Siemers - WY2F
 Email: psiemer2@nycap.rr.com
 Phone: 371-0215

Director

James MacMurray - N2UZQ
 Email: n2uzq@arrl.net
 Phone: 772-9851

Director

John Comanzo - KD2FVN
 Email: kd2fvn@arrl.net

Director

Dave Bradshaw - KD2FVM
 Email: kd2fvm@arrl.net

Standing Committees

SARA News

John Comanzo - KD2FVN
 Email: kd2fvn@arrl.net

Elmer & Antenna Party

Tim Long - W2UI
 Email: tlong1@earthlink.net

K2AE Trustee

Hal Post - AK2E
 Email: ak2e@arrl.net
 Phone: 306-6817

Repeater

Scott Krone - N2YCA
 Email: n2yca@nycap.rr.com
 Phone: 273-1610

RFI/TVI

Rudy Dehn - W2JVF
 Email: w2jvf@juno.com
 Phone: 372-6139

Public Service Events

Tony Pazzola - W2BEJ

VE Team

Al Kozakiewicz - AB2ZY
 Email: akozak@hourglass.com

FCC Exam Registration

Phone: (518) 604-4128

Schenectady County Emergency Net

SARA members act as Net Control Stations for the Schenectady County Emergency Net (SCEN) on Sunday afternoons.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: JAMES MACMURRAY - N2UZQ

DAY OF WEEK	TIME	FREQUENCY	MODE
Every Sunday	1:00 PM	444.200	K2AE Repeater
Every Sunday	1:30 PM	147.060	K2AE Repeater
1st Sunday	2:00 PM	3.953	LSB
2nd Sunday	2:00 PM	50.400	AM
3rd Sunday	2:00 PM	146.430	FM Simplex
4th Sunday	2:00 PM	28.325	USB
5th Sunday	2:00 PM	223.500	FM Simplex

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.



SARA NEEDS YOU!

If you have any articles, information, tips, tricks or items for sale you would like to include in the SARA Newsletter, send an email to saranews@k2ae.org with the subject "SARA Newsletter Ideas". Please include your full name and call sign.

Do you know why "*Dues are Gladly Accepted*"?

Because it makes Tim happy!

SARA DUES REMINDER

Have you paid your dues yet? The SARA membership year runs from July to June and the **2015-2016** dues are due. Please use the form on the last page or see Tim, W2UI, our Treasurer at the next meeting.



SARA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues are gladly accepted (Please print legibly)

New Member

Renewal

Donation to the Repeater Fund. Amount: _____

Membership Class:

Full (Licensed Amateur) - Dues: \$20.00/year

New Member Initiation - \$5.00/one time fee in addition to Full dues
(Initiation fee is used to fund the Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Fund)

Spousal - Dues: \$5.00/year. Call sign of regular member: _____

Student (K-12 and full-time undergraduate college) - Dues: \$5.00/year

.....
Call Sign (if licensed): _____ License Class: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

(Newsletters will be distributed via email unless otherwise specifically requested)

Are you a member of ARRL ARES RACES NTS

.....
Please use a separate form for each member at your address.

Make checks payable to: Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

Mail your check and this completed form to:

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 449
Schenectady, NY 12301

You may also bring this form and your membership dues to the next SARA General meeting.