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# SARA NEWS

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

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## A Message from the President

My wife and I were on a trip to New Jersey for the presentation for the Grand Ol' Ham. This year's recipient was our own AK2E.

It seemed only right that Tim Kemp and myself were there to see Hal receive the award.

I think it was the first time that Hal was at a loss for words, if you can believe that!

It was a beautiful day that ended as it began with the George Washington Bridge in the background.

Hal was lucky though. His wife wanted to go to the IKEA store after this sumptuous affair and I feared my wife would want to go also.

God must have heard our prayers as my wife started to fall asleep in the car. Hal had the same luck and we headed home in our separate ways.

All I can say it was one of the best times that I have had.

On another subject I hope you have a great Holiday Season and hope to see all of you at the December dinner at the United Buffet. Dinner will be starting at 6:00 pm this coming Monday so please show up if you can.

You do not have to be a club member or a ham. Just come and enjoy the company.

73 and blessings to all from W2XAD!

# SARA General Meeting

Monday, December 7, 2015

## “December Social Event”

**December’s meeting will be held at the United Buffet, 2320 Watt Street, Schenectady NY.**

Get out of the “Shack” for a night and come join us for an all you can eat buffet and great company!

**Place:** United Buffet, 2320 Watt Street, Schenectady (we have reserved the “back room”)

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$11.49 (plus \$1.25 for a soft drink, optional), plus tax & tip.

Since the dinner format is a buffet, members are welcome to arrive any time after 6:00 p.m., and stay as long as they want. No speeches, but plenty of time to share your latest stories with your amateur radio friends.

## Happy Holidays from SARA



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**Meeting Location**  
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*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.*

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

**[www.niskyschools.org](http://www.niskyschools.org)**  
for school closing information.

## November Board Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2015

### Present:

Craig Wood W2XAD President  
 Jim Silva KC2ZVK Vice President  
 Jim Stewart, K2PK Secretary  
 Paul Siemers WY2F Board Member  
 James MacMurray N2UZQ Board Member  
 John Comanzo, KD2FVN - Board Member  
 Dave Bradshaw, KD2FVM - Board Member

**Meeting opened by** President Wood at 7:09 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** The Board accepted the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2015 as published.

**Treasurer's Report:** No Treasurers report was available.

**New Member:** Application for membership from Terry Saunders N1KIN approved.

**Meeting Location:** Jim Silva presented negotiations with Niskayuna schools regarding free use of meeting rooms. Board discussed other possible meeting locations. The December dinner meeting will be at the United Buffet the same as recent years.

**Public Service Events:** James MacMurray discussed problems with operation of the Pumpkin Patrol this year. A request will be sent out to SARA members for volunteers for the Schenectady Thanksgiving/Christmas parade this year.

**New Business:** Discussion of Board meeting location. Board agreed to keep the Board meetings the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM as at present. Discussion of possibility of obtaining interest on deposit club funds.

**Meeting Adjourned** 8:31 PM.

**Submitted by** Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

### Calendar of Events

#### December 7 at 6PM

December Social Event  
 United Buffet  
 2320 Watt Street  
 Schenectady NY

#### December 9 at 7PM

SARA Board Meeting  
 Wendy's Restaurant  
 13 Saratoga Rd  
 Glensville, NY

### Website

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

## Hal Post AK2E - Grand Ol' Ham

**To:** Saratoga County ARA and Schenectady ARA

Thanks to both clubs for supporting the Grand Ol' Ham Award plaque and the buffet lunch at Palisades Park, NJ on November 8, 2015.

Thanks to Tim N2MBX and Craig W2XAD for their kind words at the presentation. Thanks to those that nominated me for the award.

Thanks to Antje N2OMA for her support.

73, Hal AK2E

Troy Record Newspaper Article:

<http://www.troyrecord.com/general-news/20151013/man-receives-grand-ol-ham-radio-award>



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## Recommended VHF/UHF Propagation Websites

By Bill Patmos, W2DHT

1. Coordination and scheduling, visit ON4KST chat at <http://www.on4kst.org/chat/start.php>
2. Meteor scatter information (WSJT centric), visit Pingjockey at <http://www.pingjockey.net/>
3. Real-time 2m propagation information, visit <http://aprs.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/>
4. Tropospheric ducting forecasts, visit Hepburn maps at <http://www.dxinfocentre.com>
5. Because NWS weather radar does not filter ground clutter, you can use it to spot regions of propagation enhancement. Visit <http://www.weather.gov/forecastmaps>
6. To check for conditions favorable for aurora, visit <http://www.solarham.net>

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## SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD)

**Saturday, December 5, 2015**

The 17th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) on-the-air event is set for Saturday, December 5.

SKYWARN Recognition Day celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During SRD, SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

The volunteer SKYWARN program comprises nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters -- many of them radio amateurs -- who identify severe storms and provide NWS forecasters with reports of local weather conditions during severe weather events.

To learn more visit the SKYWARN Recognition Day website at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/>.

The Albany Weather Service radios will only be active from 8am to 4pm on Saturday. SKYWARN trained licensed hams are welcome to visit and operate. You must RSVP and register for the event.

Please contact Bruce, WA3AFS at [WA3AFS@arrl.net](mailto:WA3AFS@arrl.net) to RSVP along with the estimated time you plan to arrive.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## SARA YAHOO Group

When was the last time you checked out the SARA YAHOO Group?

Not a member? Sign up at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sara/info>



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# Not in the Study Guides / Helpful Operating Tips

By Hal Post, AK2E

Listen, listen, and listen, before joining a QSO. Do not change the subject or bulldoze others that were part of the active QSO.

When there are more than two persons in a QSO, at the end of your transmission give your call sign, and turn it to the next in line. The ID is a courtesy to the others in the QSO, and if you don't get your turn back, or have to leave for some reason, you have met the FCC requirement of ID (ing) once every 10 minutes or at the end of your transmission. If a station wants to join the QSO bring them in immediately, not after your self-allotted dissertation. Keep the sequence of rotation.

Interference! HF and VHF/UHF from time to time may be interfered with. **Do not recognize, comment or otherwise dignify the interference.** If the interference continues, simply sign, keep quiet and listen on the input frequency and record the signal strength. Forward the information to the Trustee. If interference is acknowledged that you are having a QSO with an unidentified station, which is not allowed by FCC rules. You are also making the interferer very happy. OO's, the FCC and the Trustee cannot help a willing station be free from the interference. You only make the problem worse. So make no remarks about the interference. **It is better to lose 10 minutes of talk than have an ever expanding problem.**



Please remember Amateur Radio is not for everyone. We will conduct on the air activities as ladies and gentlemen. Never say anything that is hurt full or disrespectful of another person. Many hams and non-hams listen to our QSO's; give them a good impression of Amateur Radio hobby.

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## Topics for Future SARA Meetings?

### Your suggestions are needed

We welcome your suggestions for future meeting topics.

If you have a topic that you would like to present, or know of someone who could present a topic of interest to the club, please contact Jim Silva, KC2ZVK at [jsilva.ny@gmail.com](mailto:jsilva.ny@gmail.com).

We have a few openings for the rest of this year.

Jim Silva

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## Sara Dues Reminder

### 2015 - 2016 Membership Dues are Due

**Membership dues are our primary source of income. Without “your” dues, “your” club cannot exist.** Please consider paying your dues at the upcoming meeting or send in a check today. Please use the form on the last page or see Tim, W2UI, our Treasurer at the next meeting.

In January, we will send email reminders to anyone who has not paid their dues for 2015-2016. Anyone still not paying after that, will be removed from the club roster and removed from our email distribution list. Continue to be part of one of the best Amateur Radio clubs in the area, and don't miss an issue of this awesome newsletter 😊, write that check and pay your dues today.

**If you already paid your dues, Thank You!**



## Board of Directors/Officers

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### 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

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### 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](mailto: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

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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

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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.