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# SARA NEWS

## Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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P.O. Box 449  
Schenectady, NY 12301-0449

### A Message from the President

Hello members and future members.

I hope that everyone is safe and well. I have heard a lot of good feedback from our meeting on the air last month. We will be meeting on the air again for our May meeting. Tell your ham friends to join us. Tell others that might be listening and thinking about getting involved with this fun hobby.

I learned something about my battery last month. It works terrifically when I *listen* to my radio. However, once I transmit from a full charge, the battery dies. Here is the reason I bring this to your attention. Think about yourself doing a public service event. Maybe someone called on the frequency with an emergency. It would be hard to answer them with a dead battery. Put a load on those batteries even if you think they are in good condition.

73 de N2PEQ  
JR Hotaling



## **Special Announcement**

The May SARA meeting will be held as a call-in meeting on the **06 repeater**.

(the meeting will not be held at the church).

**Date: Monday, May 4**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Dust off those HTs or 2-meter rigs and call in!**

### **Cancellation:**

If Niskayuna High School cancels evening classes and activities the SARA meeting will also be cancelled. See the website below for school closing information. [www.niskyschools.org](http://www.niskyschools.org)

### **A Note of Thanks:**

Thank you N2YCA and WA2CW for going to the repeater site and fixing the 06 repeater!

**Norman Clark Gittinger (September 23, 1930 – March 28, 2020) - Silent Key**

Our condolences go out to Millie Gittinger on the passing of her husband.

Please read Clark's obituary at this link:

<https://dalyfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1609/Norman-Gittinger/obituary.html>

### **Special Notice:**

The VE exam session scheduled by SMARA has been postponed until the restrictions due to the corona virus pandemic have been lifted.

## Future Meeting Program Schedule

June 1: Field Day and business meeting

## Topics for Future SARA Meetings

Your suggestions are always welcome.

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

## Public Service Events

None until the restrictions due to the corona virus pandemic are lifted.

## Emergency equipment and antenna trailer needs to be replaced

The SARA board of directors needs your suggestions about how to raise funds to purchase a new (or gently used) trailer for our emergency and field day operations. Please contact a board member with your suggestions. To replace the current trailer with a new unit of comparable size, the cost would be about \$3,000.

## A SARA Newsletter editor is needed

If you can use a computer and word processing software, you are qualified.

Please contact a board member for more information about this important (and fun) job.

## SARA needs your help with the Newsletter

If you have any articles, information, tips, tricks, or items for sale that you would like to include in the *SARA Newsletter*, send 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 yearly membership dues reminder

Have you paid your yearly dues yet? The SARA membership year runs from July 1 through June 30, and the 2019-2020 dues are now due.

Please use the attached application form, or see treasurer Tim Long, W2UI, at the next regular meeting to pay your dues. Thank you.



**For Sale: FT-243 Crystals**

Thanks to a donation by Bill Fairchild WO2V, SARA has the following crystals for sale. The crystals are \$5.00 each. Call Jim KC2ZVK (518-877-8032) to make arrangements for pickup. All proceeds will go to SARA. Here is a list of the frequencies:

160 meters: 1.8203, 1.8769 MHz

80 meters: 3.52494, 3.51788, 3.50597, 3.73103, 3.72561, 3.70778, 3.74966, 3.74322, 3.52135, 3.50280 MHz

40 meters: 6.99914, 7.00221, 7.00822, 7.00467, 7.00662, 7.00730, 7.01145, 7.01357, 7.07692, 7.060153, 7.01995, 7.01694, 7.1855 MHz

Misc: 6.600, 6.725, 38.9 MHz

Each of these crystals is labelled with its resonant frequency, as measured using an HP8640b signal generator and a scope.

**SARA Virtual Board Meeting April 8, 2020**

**Note:** This meeting was held electronically due to the normal venue being closed by the government due to the corona virus pandemic.

**Present:**

J. R. Hotaling N2PEQ, President

Skip Evans W2YJL, Board Member

Jim Silva KC2ZVK, Vice President

Bob Saltzman WB2ARK, Board Member

Jim Stewart K2PK Secretary

James MacMurray N2UZQ Board member

Tim Long, W2UI, Treasurer

George Burns W2SFD, K2AE/Repeater Trustee

**Meeting opened** by President J. R. Hotaling at 7:22 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** The Board accepted the minutes of the board meeting of March 18, 2020 as published in SARA News.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tim Long presented the Treasurer's report. The report is identical to that presented at the March 18 meeting.

**Meetings:** J. R. Hotaling suggested that another on-the-air meeting should be scheduled for May because of present restrictions on public gatherings. The board discussed the proceedings of the April meeting held this past Monday. The meeting was very well received and a learning experience for several people. It was agreed to have the May meeting on the repeater.

In the discussion of Monday's meeting a problem was identified with the quality of the present online monitoring of the repeater. This situation needs to be followed up to improve the quality so all stations using the repeater can be heard online.

The idea was brought up of having on the air meetings during July and August when we don't normally have meetings. Several names were suggested to be contacted as possible net controls. This may have the effect of drawing additional people in SARA.

**Field Day:** Tim Long reported on the existence of discussions within ARRL about possible alternative 2020 Field Day arrangements. Tim Long will reach out to the Rexford Fire Department regarding whether we would be allowed to use their facilities if FD is held. James MacMurray reported on scuttlebutt that FD may be cancelled or postponed. Even if FD is held the amount of participation is doubtful.

**Repeater:** George Burns reported that the 2 meter repeater power amplifier failed and it was fixed by Scott or Barry within 24 hours by swapping it out with another unit. W2XM has asked for the use of the K2AE repeater for the QCWA meeting the third Saturday of the month. George and JR told him that would not be an issue. Usage of the repeater for meetings is permitted as long as the group asks for permission in advance.

**Video Projector:** Bob Saltzman reported the current interim CEO of ARRL is "uncomfortable with our request." There has been no communication with the GE volunteer group offering us a projector since the last board meeting.

**Trailer:** Tim Long reported that there has been no income to the trailer fund in the current fiscal year.

**Public Service:** Most events have been canceled. The Scotia Memorial Day Parade is doubtful. James MacMurray will follow up with the village.

**90th Anniversary:** The board discussed possible ways to observe the 90th anniversary of SARA in 2020. It was suggested that the membership be asked for ideas.

**Nominations:** None of the board members have been contacted by someone interested in a board position. James MacMurray has an idea that he will follow up on.

**New Business:** Board members agreed that Jim Stewart will send a sympathy card from the board to Millie Gittinger on the death of Clark on March 28.

**Standing Request for SARA News Editor:** The board is still looking for a volunteer to take over this position.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:37 PM. Submitted by Jim Stewart K2PK, Secretary

## K2AE Repeater 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 97.113)
4. Commercial or business use is not 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 the wintertime.)
6. If someone calls "break", operators should 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, and 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: [w2sfd@arri.net](mailto:w2sfd@arri.net).
9. In the event of an emergency (SKYWARN, flooding, extreme weather conditions, or other emergencies) control operators will turn the repeater on if it is down.

## Schenectady County Emergency Net

Schenectady County ARES 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	52.525	FM Simplex
3rd Sunday	2:00 PM	146.435	FM Simplex
4th Sunday	2:00 PM	28.350	USB
5th Sunday	2:00 PM	TBA	TBA

The nets are open to all amateurs. ARES or RACES membership is not required to participate. The purpose of the nets is for training, passing any traffic that you might have, and any announcements of general interest.

## SARA Board of Directors/Officers

### President

J.R. Hotaling - N2PEQ

Email: [n2peq2002@gmail.com](mailto:n2peq2002@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 526-5131

### Vice President

Jim Silva - KC2ZVK

Email: [jsilva.NY@gmail.com](mailto:jsilva.NY@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 877-8032

### Secretary

James Stewart - K2PK

Email: [k2pk@arrl.net](mailto:k2pk@arrl.net)

Phone: (518) 399-1867

### Treasurer

Tim Long - W2UI

Email: [tlong1@earthlink.net](mailto:tlong1@earthlink.net)

Phone: (518) 399-7454

### Director

Bob Saltzman - WB2ARK

Email: [saltzman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:saltzman@nycap.rr.com)

Phone: (518) 370-2222

### Director

Paul Siemers - WY2F

Email: [psiemer2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:psiemer2@nycap.rr.com)

Phone: (518) 371-0215

### Director

James MacMurray - N2UZQ

Email: [n2uzq@arrl.net](mailto:n2uzq@arrl.net)

Phone: (518) 369-2298

### Director

Skip Evans - W2YJL

Email: [ShortSkip86@gmail.com](mailto:ShortSkip86@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 399-5538

## SARA Standing Committees

### SARA Newsletter

Jim Silva - KC2ZVK

Email: [JSilva.NY@gmail.com](mailto:JSilva.NY@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 877-8032

### Elmer and Antenna Party

Tim Long - W2UI

Email: [tlong1@earthlink.net](mailto:tlong1@earthlink.net)

Phone: (518) 399-7454

### K2AE Repeater Trustee

George Burns - W2SFD

Email: [w2sfd@arrl.net](mailto:w2sfd@arrl.net)

### Repeater

Scott Krone - N2YCA

Email: [n2yca@nycap.rr.com](mailto:n2yca@nycap.rr.com)

Phone: (518) 273-1610

### RFI/TVI

Rudy Dehn - W2JVF

Email: [w2jvf@juno.com](mailto:w2jvf@juno.com)

Phone: (518) 372-6139

### Public Service Events

Schenectady County ARES

James MacMurray - N2UZQ

Email: [n2uzq@arrl.net](mailto:n2uzq@arrl.net)

Phone: (518) 369-2298

### Volunteer Examiner Team

Vacant - please consider volunteering for this position

### FCC Exam Registration

Phone: (518) 604-4128

# Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Membership Application

Please print legibly



- New member (some eligibility requirements apply)  
 Renewing member  
 Donation to the Repeater Fund. Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Class:

- Full: \$20.00 per year dues  
 New member initiation: \$5.00 one-time fee in addition to full dues  
 (The initiation fee is applied to the Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Fund)  
 Spousal: \$5.00 per year dues. Name or call sign of full member: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student (K-12 and full-time undergraduate college): \$5.00 per year dues

Call Sign (if licensed): \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(The *SARA Newsletter* will be distributed via email, unless otherwise specifically requested.)

Member of:  ARRL  ARES  RACES  NTS \_\_\_\_\_ another club (specify)

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

Make checks payable to: **Schenectady Amateur Radio Association**

Mail this completed form and your check to:

**Schenectady Amateur Radio Association**

**PO Box 449**

**Schenectady, NY 12301-0449**

You may also submit this form and your membership dues to the treasurer at any SARA meeting.