



SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Inc.
"Service Through Amateur Radio"

Founded 1930

September, 2001

K2AE Repeaters

Meeting Monday, September 10, 2001 at 7:30 PM, Olin Hall, Union College

Broughton Award

The 2001 Henry Primm Broughton Award was presented to Rob Lieden, KR2L. Rob's contributions to SARA, SMARA and the Eastern New York Section of the ARRL were mentioned by Phil Bradway, filling in for last year's recipient, Bill Patmos, W2DHT.



Picture by Dennis Hudson, N2LBT

Niska-Day Parade, May 19, 2001

Niska-Day Parade, May 19. The 20th celebration of Niska-Day in the town of Niskayuna was held on May 19, with bright sunshine and a very comfortable temperature. One of the big events of the day was the morning parade with the hams of SARA providing communications for the organizers and the Public Address announcer. The very capable crew consisted of W2SID, W2CSN, N2SQO, KG2AO, KB2SWR, WB2SMK, WY2T, N2RPW, AB2IU, AA2CW, W2JVF and K2RI. Their help was much appreciated. de Raleigh, K2RI

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ARRL NIGHT

Frank Fallon, N2FF, the Hudson Division Director, has agreed to be our September speaker. There are a lot of things brewing on both the national and the state scene that Frank, as Director, is very much aware of. His insights are sure to be informative. Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, the new Eastern New York Section Manager, will also join us for the evening.

As a special treat, there will be a visual recap of field day by Jay, K2QNU.



Come and enjoy the SARA season opener. Meet old friends and make some new ones, too!

Repeater Hardware

The K2AE 2 meter repeater went through a short period of reduced sensitivity recently. It seems that a known characteristic of Mastr IIs came to haunt us. The Mastr II radios make superb repeaters but occasionally a casting in the front end will develop "dendrites." Dendrites are crystalline growths, which, over time, fill the cavities within the casting, deafening the receiver. Scott, N2YCA applied the factory suggested cure of the problem and we should not have a reoccurrence for a long time. Thanks, Scott!

From the Board

Mid-Summer Board Meeting

Present were Tim Long-W2UI, George Williams -W2CSN, Manny Schulman-AA2TT, Jay Freud-K2QNU, Paul Siemers-WY2F, Brian Macherone-AB2IU, Bob Raffaele- W2XM and Rob Lieden-KR2L.

Call to order at 7:00 PM by our new president, Rob Lieden. As it was W2XMs Birthday, Barb served ice tea and cheese cake. The Board of Directors then sang Happy Birthday.

The board of directors will look into using another room for socializing before the presentations begin in the lecture hall.

New trailer for SARA. There was a lot of heated debate and then a vote to purchase a new or used trailer for the club to move the field day equipment. A replacement trailer would allow the club to store and move tower sections, beams, coaxial cable, and all associated heavy equipment. The trailer now in use is not repairable. Motion to spend no more than \$2500 on a single axle 6x12 foot trailer made by Tim and second by Jay. Motion carried.

Manny volunteered to be the new Public Relations Rep. Manny also volunteered to write a series of letters to area merchants about possible sponsorship of the proposed trailer.

SARA amateur radio class. Manny will look into having the community service room available at the Cross Gates mall. Bob is looking for teachers for the new SARA tech class.

Brian, our new VP and program chairman, plans a year of events to include: in-house HF radio demonstrations, QRP, and digital PSK31. He is also thinking about bringing back the club auction/fleamarket in the fall, and a spring dinner party.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM, motion by Manny and second by Brian.

Jay Freud, K2QNU, Secretary

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - JUNE 4th 2001

The meeting was called to order by Paul Siemers, WY2F, club president. About 75 members and guests were present.

George Williams, W2CSN, Treasurer, gave an in depth financial report. The Club has 144 members in good standing. George has pointed out that there has been a small decline in membership. The report was accepted by the membership.

The Secretary, Jay Freud, K2QNU read the SARA board meeting minutes of 5/31/01. The minutes were accepted as read.

There were comments and discussion about our meeting location at Olin hall, Union College. Concerns included the winter walk, the lack of refreshments and the use of Olin hall for both parties and swapfests. Following debate, Paul, WY2F, asked for a show of hands in favor of Olin Hall and a show of hands against Olin Hall. The out come was about even. We will continue to meet at

Olin Hall and we will also check out the possibility of a new location.

Scotia Memorial Parade organizers made a formal presentation to SARA at the meeting with Kurt VonMarker and Bob VanVorst presenting a plaque to our President, Paul Siemers. The gentlemen also provided hot coffee and donuts to all present.

Silent Key. A moment of silence was maintained for Bill Hackert, W2MTE and his family who perished in a house fire.

Field Day: Manny AA2TT will be "Chef Manny" and is looking for help this year. Tim, W2UI, explained the use of the newest CT logging program this year.

Elections: Dennis Hudson, N2LBT ran the election proceedings. He asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. He asked that the President ask the secretary to cast one vote for the Nomination Committee slate of officers. The secretary cast one vote for the slated officers. Elected were: President, Rob Lieden, VP, Brian Macherone, Secretary Jay Freud, Treasurer, George Williams, Directors; Paul Siemers, Manny Schulman and Bob Raffaele.

Broughton Award. Phil Bradway made the presentation while last years winner and last year's chair for the Broughton award is away on holiday. Phil spoke with elegance to describe a fine man, using words such as goodness, efficiency, family and friends, supporting amateur radio by way of hamfests, ARRL, ARES and RACES, special events stations service to clubs, the league and finally we all knew that he was speaking of Rob Lieden, KR2L .

Ray Wemple, KA2DVM, ARRL Local Government Liasion, gave a talk about supporting the local effort to bring PRB-1 to the local state level. He requested support from the members.

The meeting ended at 9:30PM with donuts and smiles.

Jay Freud, K2QNU, Secretary



Meeting Moments

SK

Otto J. Brand, KA2BZR. Otto was employed as a butcher at the Albany Pork Store and then joined the Schenectady Fire Department, where he served for 22 years, retiring in 1988. After retirement he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends at his camp on the Great Sacandaga Lake. He was also an avid outdoorsman, enjoying boating, fishing and hunting. He was a member of many organizations, including the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association. Mr. Brand is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mary Ann Thron Brand; one son, Peter J. Brand, AB2BU, of Troy; one daughter, Lisa Surprenant of Cohoes; his mother, Dacy Joos Brand of Schenectady; one brother, Harry Brand of Schenectady; one sister, Helene Wetzel of Niskayuna and three grandchildren. Our sympathies to the Family.

High Speed Meteor Scatter (for the CW challenged)

I am pleased to announce general availability of version 1.0 of WSJT, a software package designed for amateur radio communication at VHF using the technique of high speed meteor scatter. The software can be downloaded from URL <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT>. A full distribution is provided, as well as a special package for easy upgrade from any earlier version. WSJT is free and available to anyone for ham radio use.

Beta-release versions of WSJT have been widely used throughout North America and Europe over the past two months. Several thousand hams have downloaded the program, and many thousands of QSOs have been made with it on the 2 and 6 meter bands. Most of these QSOs have been under "dead band" conditions and without benefit of meteor showers. Typical paths for this type of communication are in the range 500 to 1400 miles (800 to 2250 km).

Most hams who have tried WSJT have found it easy and fun to use — a big step beyond high speed CW, and a vast step beyond SSB, for meteor scatter work. WSJT does not require any proficiency with Morse code.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS - SSB station for one or more VHF bands - Computer running Windows 95, 98 or ME. Windows 2000 and a beta release of Windows XP have also been found to work - 75 MHz Pentium or faster CPU - Monitor running at 800 x 600 or higher resolution - At least 32 MB RAM - At least 40 MB of free disk space - Windows-compatible soundcard - Station interface like those required for PSK31, MFSK16, Hellschreiber, etc. The DTR or RTS line of one COM port is used to key your transmitter's PTT line. Standard connections are required between your radio's audio output and the computer soundcard input, and vice-versa.

73, Joe, K1JT

ARRL/FCC

ARRL TO FCC: STOP THE ENCROACHMENT!

The ARRL has called on the FCC to put an end to commercial encroachment on amateur allocations at 2.3 and 2.4 GHz. The League included the request in its reply comments, filed August 16, on a petition by AeroAstro to share co-primary status with the Amateur Service at 2300 to 2305 MHz. The ARRL reiterated its stance that the company's petition represents "a Trojan Horse" and that there is no way that Amateur Radio and AeroAstro's position monitoring system could share the same spectrum.

"It is time for the Commission to stop those encroachments, because they have gone too far already," the ARRL said.

ARRL has petitioned to elevate the Amateur Service from secondary to primary status on the band and requested that no commercial operations be introduced. AeroAstro seeks co-primary status with the Amateur Service to accommodate its Satellite Enabled Notification System (SENS) position-monitoring system under MWCS rules. The FCC put both petitions on public notice last month, and both parties filed comments earlier this month. There is no primary occupant at 2300-2305 MHz.

"There is no dispute that the segment near 2304 MHz is uniquely suited to amateur weak-signal communications, and the remainder of that segment is used and useful for other types of amateur communication," the ARRL said in its reply comments.

AeroAstro says its 1 W spread-spectrum SENS uplinks and Amateur Radio can share the 5 MHz of spectrum and still protect the nearby NASA Deep Space Network. While contending that it "does not seek to cut back current Amateur operations in the band," AeroAstro also asked the FCC to severely limit amateur power levels in the band. The ARRL has called those recommendations "Draconian" and "unacceptable."

The League asked the FCC to dismiss the AeroAstro petition as defective and to grant the League's petition for primary amateur status at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL's 60-Meter Petition

The FCC has begun accepting comments on the ARRL's petition seeking the allocation of 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Service on a domestic (US-only), secondary basis. The Commission assigned a rulemaking number, RM-10209, to the proceeding. Even if the FCC eventually okays the petition, it's likely to be several years before the new band actually becomes available.

In its petition, the ARRL told the FCC that the new band would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters, particularly for emergency communications during hurricanes and severe weather emergencies. The ARRL also said a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve substantial overcrowding that periodically occurs on 80 and 40. It is proposed that General class and higher amateurs be permitted to operate CW, phone, data, image and RTTY on the new band running maximum authorized power.

From the ARRL Letter

Web Stuff

Amateur Band Chart

<http://www.icomamerica.com/downloads/bandchar.pdf>

The BoatAnchor Manual Archive

<http://bama.sbc.edu/>

Canadian callbook

<http://www.rac.ca/callbook/power.shtml>

SARA web site

<http://www.rpi.edu/~brandp/sara/index.html>

Get the latest on SARA activities

*When you reach the end of
your rope, tie a knot in it and
hang on.*

Thomas Jefferson

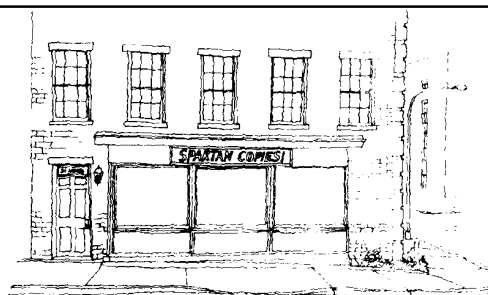
SK

William P. Hackert, Jr., W2MTE (ex WA2SRP) - Bill died in a tragic fire at his home, along with family members. He worked at the GE C R & D Center in Niskayuna.

He was active on 2 meters, a regular for many years on "drive time" FM as well as weak signal work. Always a gentleman, his absence is a loss to the amateur community.

SARA extends its sincere sympathy to the family.

We thank **Spartan Copies** for the help with printing, etc., of SARA News. It is appreciated.



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Scheneectady Amateur Radio Association Inc.
P.O. Box 207
Alplaus, N.Y. 12008