

SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH
AMATEUR RADIO"**

FOUNDED 1930

K2AE REPEATERS

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

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November, 2004

General Meeting, November 1st, 2004 at 7:30PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

Public Service

October 30-31 5-10pm(wx dependent) Pumpkin Patrol call
Jack Donnelly 869-1074 villager@nycap.rr.com

Contact Ken Clikeman AA2CW to sign up for these activities at 861-6825 free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com Ken is short volunteers for both of the November events.

November 14th - 10am Stockade-athon 15K race from Central Park through Schenectady, and back to the park.

November 26th - TBA Schenectady Christmas Parade.

RACES Nets

1:00 PM - K2AE 444.200 repeater
1:15 PM - K2AE 224.060 repeater (Off air temporarily)
1:30 PM - K2AE 147.060 repeater
2:00 PM - 3953 KHz, 75 Meter Lower SSB

SARA Board Meeting

The SARA Board meeting will be this coming Thursday, October 28th, 2004 at 7:00pm, Union College Campus, in the Lab Room N-106, next to the W2UC Room, N-106A. SARA Members and invited guests are welcome to attend, please RSVP to President Ramsey Seielstad vze2n6jv@verizon.net 377-2263.

ANTENNAS, ANTENNAS!

Reliable HF Communications using Simple Antennas and NVIS Communications

The November SARA meeting will be a two part program about basic antennas and one of the more interesting modes of propagation on the low bands, "Near Vertical Incidence Skywave". The first part will be about how to put up some simple but effective low cost antennas that will really work on the low bands. This part of the presentation will feature information on the basic dipoles, multiband dipoles and various loop antennas. The second part will be about NVIS, a type of HF propagation that uses simple antennas to achieve reliable communications over modest distances of a few hundred miles even under marginal conditions. This part of the presentation will cover aspects of modifying common antennas to use NVIS as well as using mobile or low powered stations for reliable QSOs over medium distances and during emergency HF nets.

Both parts of the program will feature practical advice and information on how to put up your own low band antennas or improve the ones you have. The best part is that these kinds of antennas don't have to cost a lot of money, nor do they involve a lot of complexity.

Meeting begins at 7pm in the "New Cafeteria" in the rear of Niskayuna High School on Monday November 1st.



Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Annual General Meeting
September 9, 2004 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dan Whelan, N2UD, at 7:03 PM in lab room N106 just outside the W2UC shack on the Union College Campus.

Attendees: President, Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW Vice-President, Dan Whelan, N2UD Treasurer, George Williams, W2CSN Secretary, Tim Long, W2UI Director, Paul Siemers, WY2F Director, Dennis Hudson, N2LBT Member, Raleigh Keeter, K2RI

Minutes: Dan Whelan, N2UD, made a motion to accept the minutes as published in SARA News. George Williams, W2CSN, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Tim Long, W2UI, reported that, since the last Board Meeting, we had received 1 monthly bank statement, an insurance statement, several membership renewals, QSL cards from Field Day, an email regarding the Lake Placid Iron Man competition, and various club newsletters.

Treasurer's Report: George Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's Report. Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Dan Whelan, N2UD, and it passed unanimously.

New Members: No new member applications were received.

Membership: We mailed 83 copies and emailed another 51 copies.

Public Service: See the events listed in SARA News for planned upcoming events. No other events are planned. No new requests were received.

Programs: Dan Whelan, N2UD, provided an idea sheet of potential program ideas for the Board's consideration. The December meeting will be the traditional Holiday Festival. Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, has agreed to organize this program.

Public Relations: No chairperson, no report.

Newsletter: Dennis continues to welcome articles and other items for publication. Electronic format by email is preferred.

RFI: Raleigh Keeter, K2RI, reported that no complaints had been received.

Repeater Committee: No report

VE Sessions: No requests received. A test session is planned for prior to the November meeting.

Anniversary Committee: We will take an informal survey at the next

general meeting to determine the potential interest in having a 75th Anniversary Banquet. A special 75 year Anniversary Program will be planned for either the March or April meeting.

Constitution and By-Laws: No report.

Old Business: Lake Placid Ironman – We received email on this event which indicated that there would be an organizational meeting on October 9th after the hamfest. It is not clear if attendees from SARA will be willing to stay and attend the meeting..

The ARRL has requested that we sponsor a June VHF Award plaque at a cost of \$67. Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion that we discontinue support of this plaque. The motion was seconded by Tim Long, W2UI. The vote was two members in favor with the remaining attendees abstaining. The motion carried. Tim Long will inform the ARRL of our decision not to continue sponsoring this plaque.

Tim Long reported that he had not yet contacted Ken Martin, WA2STS, regarding the coaxial cable that he is willing to donate to SARA.

New Business: George Williams, W2CSN, made a motion to extend a complimentary subscription of SARA News to WAMC's Arriel Trimm. The motion was seconded by Paul Siemers, WY2F, and it passed unanimously.

Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

SARA News needs you

The editor wants your stories, swap info, and information. Send your articles to saranews@k2ae.org or to the address on the return label.

SWAP

FS: Self supporting tower, about 50 feet, on the ground. Three element, triband beam, probably a Mosley, also on the ground. Low band vertical, bands and manufacturer not known, still mounted on chimney. Location - Scotia. Call Christie, 372-3069, after 3:00 PM, to discuss or to look at the items.

NYS Grants \$300,000 to help Syracuse based Broadband Company Develop BPL

reported by Hudson Division "Beacon"

By Tim Knauss-Staff writer

A start-up Syracuse company that can deliver Internet and telephone service via electric lines to household wall sockets will get a \$300,000 state grant after promising to grow from five employees to 158 in three years, Gov. George Pataki announced Tuesday.



New Visions PLC LLC will invest \$1 million to build a network operating center at its offices in Armory Square and to install equipment on electric lines throughout the village of Solvay, said Carmen Branca, founder and chief operating officer.

New Visions plans to offer service in Solvay by the first of the year, then to move on to other utility territories.

ARRL ASKS FCC TO SHUT DOWN NEW YORK BPL FIELD TRIAL

The ARRL this week asked the FCC to shut down a BPL field trial system in Briarcliff Manor, New York, that has been the subject of past interference complaints. The ARRL says the system, operated by Ambient Corporation under an FCC Experimental license, continues to cause "harmful interference" to amateur stations and that the FCC must require it to cease operation immediately.

"The operator of the system has attempted what it referred to as 'adjustments' in this system in order to reduce the severe interference potential to licensed radio services such as the Amateur Service," said ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. "These 'adjustments' have come to be inaccurately referred to as 'notching' of certain bands, and as a solution to interference to Amateur Service stations, they are incomplete and inadequate."

The ARRL's October 8 letter of complaint asserts that the Briarcliff Manor system not only is currently causing interference but fails to comply with either applicable FCC Part 15 regulations or with the terms of its FCC experimental authorization.

ARRL said the BPL facility at Briarcliff Manor should not be permitted to resume operation until it can demonstrate "full compliance" with FCC rules. The League also called on the FCC to impose "appropriate monetary forfeitures" against Ambient.

Accompanying the League's complaint were technical exhibits substantiating the degree of interference the League alleges. One exhibit shows the results of frequency-shifting adjustments Ambient made to the system in the wake of "multiple interference complaints from licensed radio amateurs." The complaint maintains that the adjustments failed to reduce interference on "a substantial portion" of the HF amateur allocations. The ARRL study says Ambient has been trying for more than a year to mitigate

interference by using "notching" techniques, "but to no avail."

The ARRL said measurements taken at 14.3 MHz at one point in the system "revealed 30 to 40 dB of degradation to Amateur Radio operations along a stretch of road over a kilometer in length." A sweep at another location showed that BPL signals occupying the entire 15-meter band remained strong more than a quarter mile from the BPL injector.

"The levels of interfering BPL signals are sufficient to obscure virtually all Amateur Radio received signals and preclude Amateur Radio communications in the areas and on the bands identified in the report," the ARRL concluded.

ARRL member Alan Crosswell, N2Y GK, a resident of the community, has documented interference, complaints and related information on his "BPL in Briarcliff Manor" Web site <http://www.columbia.edu/~alan/bpl/>.

The Briarcliff Manor BPL system, which is operated by the electric utility Consolidated Edison, was the focus of a March 2004 front-page Wall Street Journal article, "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," by technology writer Ken Brown. ARRL staff members accompanied Brown to the BPL site so he could hear the interference firsthand.



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*	\$ _____

*New Members Only

Name _____ Call _____

Nickname _____ Class _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Signature _____

ARRL _____ RACES _____ ARES _____ MARS _____

Send to SARA, PO Box 207, Alplaus, NY 12008-0207
July, 2004 through June, 2005

Board Of Directors

Pres: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW,
vze2n6jv@verizon.net 377-2263
VPres: Dan Whelan, N2UD n2ud@arrl.net 895-2754
Sec: Tim Long, W2UI, tlong2@nycap.rr.com 399-7454
Treas: George Williams, W2CSN,
williamg@tardis.union.edu 377-6188

Directors

Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, gittingn@crisny.org 377-0671
Dennis Hudson, N2LBT n2lbt@n2lbt.com 435-9730
Carl Lester, K2YR k2yr@nycap.rr.com 893-7609
Paul Siemers, WY2F, siemers@crd.ge.com 371-0215

Standing Committees

SARA News: Dennis Hudson, n2lbt@n2lbt.com 435-9730

PIO: We need a volunteer!

Repeater: Scott Krone, N2YCA

n2yca@nycap.rr.com 273-1610

K2AE: Howard Lester, W2ODC hlester@nycap.rr.com

RFI: Rudy Dehn, W2JVF w2jvf@juno.com 372-6139

Public Service: Ken Clikeman, AA2CW

free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com 861-6825

VE Team: Bill Mischler, KG2AC 370-1350

Activity Calendar

October

28th **SARA Board Meeting** 7:00 - TBA
30-31 **Pumpkin Patrol** 5-10pm **Jack Donnelly**

November

1st **SARA Meeting** 7:30pm
2nd **Election Day** **VOTE!**
6-8 **ARRL November SS (CW)**
14th **Stockade-A-Thon** **Ken AA2CW**
20-22 **ARRL November SS (Phone)**
25th **Thanksgiving**
26th **Schenectady Christmas Parade** **Ken AA2CW**

December

2-5 **ARRL 160 Meter Contest**
4-5 **ARRL International EME Contest**
6th **SARA Holiday Party** 7:30pm
11-12 **ARRL 10 Meter Contest**
25th **Christmas**
31st **New Year's Eve**

VE Registration (518) 370-1350

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 207 • Alplaus, NY 12008

