

SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH
AMATEUR RADIO"**

FOUNDED 1930

K2AE REPEATERS

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

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March, 2007

SARA General Meeting, Monday March 5th , 2007 at 7:00PM, Niskayuna High School Cafeteria

Public Service

Volunteers are needed for Niskaday. Please contact Ken Clikeman, AA2CW free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com or by phone at 861-6825 to register. Volunteers should meet at 7:30 AM at Friendly's on Balltown Road on May 19, 2007.

THE HISTORY OF QUARTZ CRYSTALS IN WARTIME RADIO COMMUNICATIONS With Dr. Richard Thompson

The March 5th SARA meeting will feature a presentation by Dr. Richard Thompson author of "Crystal Clear: The Struggle For Reliable Communications Technology In World War II" recently published by Wiley Publishing. Dr. Thompson's research into this field uncovered the arduous road that quartz crystal technology took to become one of the critical developments during war time when the communications equipment of the day was prone to drift off frequency.

The mining, refinement and mass production of electronic quartz crystals had a direct and critical impact on the course of the war and the overall reliability of Allied combat radio communications. The quartz crystal technology legacy follows us today with quartz crystals at the heart of nearly every radio communications device, computer or

telecommunications equipment design. While we hams take this apparently simple electronic device for granted today, there was a time when its very special properties were one of WW-2's most valuable assets. This property today makes modern radios perform with precision today on the mean streets of Schenectady as well as the combat hot zones in Iraq.

Dr. Thompson's presentation will look at quartz crystals from the historical perspective of his research and will be of interest to those who are non-technical as well as those of us who are intimately familiar with use of crystals. Dr. Thompson is the Dean of Mathematics and Science Department at The College of Saint Rose in Albany.

The SARA meeting will be at 7 PM at the Niskayuna High School in the "new cafeteria" toward the rear of the building. As you pull into Niskayuna High School from the traffic light on Balltown road come toward the main entrance and then turn right. Follow the road around the side of the school and there is parking along that side. The "new cafeteria" is right near the double doors toward the middle of that side of the school. The school is on Balltown Road roughly about 2 miles north of the intersection of Route 7 (Crosstown Arterial) and Balltown Road. It is on the same side of the road as and about ½ mile north of the WRGB TV studios.



SARA Special Operating Event on April 22, 2007

SARA will have an on the air special operating event celebrating the 77 Club anniversary. We are looking for large membership participation. Members who do not enjoy their own operating facility (Ham Shack) are encouraged to use another ham's station as a guest operator. The same goes for those whom have a Novice or Tech privileges. Participants will use the club call sign K2AE. We will provide a brief written description of SARA's history.

We will endeavor to work on cw and phone on each Band i.e. 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Actual operating frequencies will be chosen in accordance with the new frequency/band plan to go into effect on 15 Dec 2006. The number of participants will determine the duration of the event. We are trying to operate from 7AM to 5PM. This will give all the states and some dx stations a chance of contacting us.

AK2E has volunteered to coordinate the event. He can be contacted by email ak2e@arrl.net. (Please include special event in subject line) or by phone at 518-584-6441. If you have a preference of time, band, mode, or have a station available for use by a guest operator, or want to be a guest operator please contact Hal. This is a fun event giving all members a chance to get on the air for a common cause, get to learn HF operating procedures, and get to know your fellow club members.

ARRL MARKS TRANSITION TO NEW AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

A new Amateur Radio Service regime now is in place. The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules February 23 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees. The League is marking the occasion with a W1AW special event aimed at welcoming newcomers to the HF bands. The "W1AW HF Open House" has included exam sessions under both old and new rules. ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, points to the still-

growing number of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) test sessions now on the schedule across the US as evidence that the rule changes will provide a shot in the arm to Amateur Radio.

"ARRL VEC has been extremely busy scheduling new exam sessions," Kramer said. "We normally coordinate about 5500 sessions per year, but we've already scheduled close to 5000 sessions and it's only the end of February."

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports some 175 ARRL VEC test sessions are on the schedule through the February 23-25 period, "and these are just the ones that have registered with us," she added. Two dozen applicants showed up at League Headquarters, either to sit for an exam or apply for license upgrades.

"I was surprised at the number of people who wanted to take the test at 12:01 AM," Somma remarked. All but two test applicants took their exams under the new rules. "After people took their exams, some went over to W1AW to use their new privileges," she added.

First out of the gate at the League's 12:01 AM test session was Joshua Rozovsky, N3YAR, of Bloomfield, Connecticut. He upgraded from Tech to Amateur Extra.

Despite snowy New England weather, a few applicants traveled some distance to take their exams. "A nice young couple that drove in from Rhode Island joined ARRL while here," said ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB. "They thought this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take their upgrades here at HQ."

Breen, who upgraded to General at the February 23 exam session, has been tracking W1AW Open House events in near-real time on an ARRL Web site blog <http://www.arrl.org/blog/W1AW%20HF%20Open%20House> She's also posted some videos to YouTube.com.

Somma says her department now is bracing for an anticipated application avalanche as paperwork from initial sessions shows up. She and Kramer predict test demand will surge even further in the days and weeks ahead. Not only has the number of test sessions increased dramatically,

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Kramer pointed out, the number of applicants at each session is up as well. To keep up with demand, ARRL VEC has hired additional help. Staffers from other HQ departments also have been lending a hand.

March QST includes an eight-page "tearout" section "Now, New Opportunities for Every Ham!" between pages 48 and 49. <http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>. It focuses on various topics of interest to those gaining new HF privileges through upgrading or owing to the new rules as well as to veteran licensees. Among other things, it covers mentoring -- or Elmering -- newcomers, "The Top 10 Reasons to Try Morse Code," earning ham radio operating awards by using Logbook of the World (LoTW) and a "Welcome to the fascinating world of high frequency (HF) radio!" by ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"The FCC's decision to eliminate the Morse code examination as a licensing requirement opens the door to HF for all amateur licensees," Sumner points out in his remarks. Sumner also addresses the topic in his "It Seems to Us" editorial in March QST (page 9).

"As these new HF operators join us on our favorite bands, we old timers need to set a good example and to be patient, welcoming and positive," he writes. "Let's all remember how little we knew when we got started, and honor those who helped us along the way by doing the same for others."

The March QST special section includes a new ARRL band <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>.

The new rules seem to be driving greater enthusiasm for ham radio in general. There's been an uptick in ARRL publication sales, particularly in licensing manuals and licensing guides, and enrollment in the online ARRL Ham Radio License Course (EC-010) <http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html> is at an all-time high. Additionally, Kramer notes, DXCC applications are up by 350 from last year, while LoTW has exceeded 121 million QSO records.

SWAP

No items listed, please email your submissions to saranews@k2ae.org or mail them to the address printed on the back of SARA News.

SARA Membership / SARA News

Just a reminder to pay your current year SARA dues. If you think you have paid them but are not sure, Please contact the Association Treasurer, George Williams W2CSN williamg@union.edu or 377-6188. The dues run from physical year, June to June.

Broughton Memorial Award.

The Broughton Award Committee, (*George W2CSN, Dan N2UD, Hal AK2E*), is accepting written nominations for this years Broughton Award. Nominations should contain candidates name, a brief biography and reasons why the nominee should receive the award.

The Broughton Memorial Award is presented to a Person for exemplary service to Amateur Radio, To the Public, and to SARA.



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*	\$ _____
<small>*New Members Only</small>		
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, 2006 through June, 2007

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Standing Committees

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VE Team: Bill Mischler KG2AC kg2ac@juno.com 370-1350

VE Registration (518) 370-1350

Activity Calendar

March

3-4 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)
5 SARA Meeting

April

2 SARA Meeting

May

7 SARA Meeting
19 Niskyaday

Sunday SCESN Nets

12:30PM - K2AE 53.57 repeater
1:00 PM - K2AE 444.200 repeater
1:30 PM - K2AE 147.060 repeater
2:00 PM - 3953 KHz, 75 Meter Lower SSB