SARA NEWS
SCHENECTADY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC. "SERVICE THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO"
FOUNDED 1930 K2AE REPEATERS
www.k2ae.org Copyright 2008 SARA Inc. November 2008

SARA General Meeting, Monday November 3rd , 2008 at 7:00PM
in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 at Niskayuna High School

DIGITAL TELEVISION BROADCASTING

(Remember Analog over-the air TV broadcasts END on 2/17/2009!)

The November SARA Meeting will feature a presentation on the Digital TV Broadcast transition by Rich Klein - WB2TBG, Chief Engineer of local NBC Affiliate WNYT Channel 13. Rich will give us his perspective on the changes DTV is bringing to his station, the TV broadcast industry in general and what it will mean to those of us who watch TV.

The changeover to digital transmission for "off air" TV is mandated by the FCC to happen on February 17, 2008. By that date the consumers who receive TV broadcasts with antennas will need to equip themselves with either new digital TV sets or obtain a special DTV tuner which will receive the new digital transmissions and convert them to the lower resolution pictures that can be watched on a conventional older NTSC standard TV set. People who subscriber to cable television will still receive TV signals as normal and need not buy a special DTV converter box. Ti receive the wide screen format, higher resolution pictures one of the new HDTVs would be required however. Those who use satellite TV service such as DirecTV or Dish Network will need to check their equipment configuration since some equipment additions or changes may be required for reception of the local broadcast TV channels.

The following official government/ FCC website has links to more DTV info: **www.dtv.gov**
For those wishing to purchase a DTV converter/tuner box for use with older sets there are government discount coupons available that can be obtained from the U.S. National Telecommunications Information Agency at their site. **http://www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/index.html**

About The SARA Meeting Location

The normal SARA meeting location for 2008-09 is in Niskayuna High School's "Little Theater" Room D-104 which is on a cross hallway between the two wings in the rear of the school. Due to major school construction at the front main entrance of the school there are changes once again this year in parking and the traffic pattern for access to the rear parking lot. Access to the school's rear parking lot can be gained by entering from Nott Street which crosses Balltown just south of the school at the light. Go past shopping mall where Friendly's is a few hundred yards on Nott Street and go into the Niskayuna High School rear entrance which is marked on the left. This entrance leads to the parking lot on the side/rear of the school. Also remember there is no smoking on school premises.

RENEW YOUR SARA MEMBERSHIP - SARA Membership for the 2008-2009 year needs to be renewed **now** . The meetings and activities of SARA are supported by your dues. So please take the time to fill out the renewal coupon on the back address page of SARA News and mail it to the address shown or bring it to the SARA meeting and give it to our Treasurer George Williams W2CSN.

Edison Exploratorium Premiers Documentary On Local Superconductivity Researcher

A new film from the Edison Exploratorium premiered at the Proctors GE Theater as part of the Electric City Film Festival on October 23rd video which is about Dr. Karl Rosner a pioneer in practical superconductivity formerly with GE R&D and who headed up Intermagnetics. A number of hams from SARA worked on this technology with Dr. Rosner so it should be of interest to many. This documentary is part of the "Wizards of Schenectady" series and was produced by well known local broadcaster Ernie Tetrault and documentary film maker Mike Whelan - KC2ILV. The documentary will be appearing on local cable systems and can be seen on Youtube. The Edison Exploratorium link is: www.edisonexploratorium.org The link to this and other technology related videos from Mike Whelan is: http://www.youtube.com/user/whelancommunications.

SARA BOARD MEETING - OCTOBER 15, 2008

Location Eng Building, Union College, Schenectady, NY
Attending: VP Frank Simon WB2PUH
Secretary Hal Post AK2E
Treasurer George Williams W2CSN
Board: Bill Proctor KC2NXC
Dan Fiorillo KB2MER
Bob Saltzman WB2ARK
Bill Mischler KG2AC

6:58 PM - Meeting called to Order by VP Simon.

7:00PM - Secretary Report given and accepted

7:03 PM - Treasurer report given and accepted.

7:04 PM - Old Business:
- W2ODC Committee report - Frank still working on presentation piece.

(*Old Business -continued*)
- Edison Exploratorium - No report given.
- Upcoming meetings - Frank reports that the Nov. meeting will be on Digital TV.
- December SARA meeting - party at Old Country Buffet in Schenectady.
- Repeater – Looking into getting 220 repeater back on the air, with the possibility of new equipment if necessary. New controller being priced.

7:15 PM – New Business:
- Discussion on how to increase membership. Several ideas presented and will take further study to codify various directions.

7:54 PM Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: Hal Post AK2E Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
1-3 Nov 2008	ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW) Contest	Rules
3 Nov 2008	***SARA Meeting – 7 PM "DTV Broadcasting"***	***Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School***
8 Nov 2008	FARAFEST - Falmouth Amateur Radio Association http://www.falara.org **Talk-In:** 146.655/055 (PL 88.5)	Bourne, MA Upper Cape Cod Regional Vocational Technical School 220 Sandwich Road
15-16 Nov 2008	ARRL International EME Competition	Rules
15-16 Nov 2008	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)	Rules
29-30 Nov 2008	CQ WW DX CW Contest	<www.cqww.com>
1 Dec 2008	***SARA Meeting – 6 PM Holiday Dinner Meeting***	**Old Country Buffet, Albany Street & Rt 7 Pay for buffet at the door.**
5-6 Dec 2008	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Rules
13-14 Dec 2008	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	
5 Jan 2008	SARA Meeting – 7 PM (First meeting of 2009)	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School

Be sure to check out the ARRL Hamfest calendar for more detailed informations. Go to http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html

Interested in VHF/UHF/Microwave Operations? - by Dan Whelan – N2UD

There are several very specialized ham "VHF clubs" which are involved with the highly technical aspects of operation and construction of equipment to operate in these higher frequency ham bands. One of the norms for operating on many of these bands is the need to construct some major portion of all of your equipment and antennas. It is among the most interesting challenges for many hams who want to "push the envelope" of their skills and is about as far away from being one of those dreaded "appliance operators" as one can be! Some of these clubs have websites and news letters with lots of useful information and here is a listing of some of the most active ones listed by Gene Zimmerman W3ZZ for his QST column "World Above 50 Mhz".

VHF Clubs	
Group Name	**URL**
Badger Contesters	www.qsl.net/bc
Central States VHF Society	www.csvhfs.org
Fourlanders	www.fourlanders.org
Grid Pirates	www.k8gp.net
Midwest VHF/UHF Society	www.ceitron.com/mvus/mvus.html
Mount Airy VHF Radio Club	http://members.ij.net/packrats
Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force (W2SZ)	www.mgef.org
IMRODS	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nimrods
Indianapolis Carmel Experimenters (W9ICE)	www.w9ice.com
North Texas Microwave Society	www.ntms.org
Northeast Weak Signal	www.newsvhf.com
Northern Lights Radio Society	http://www.nlrs.org/
Ontario VHF Association	www.geocities.com/ve3iey/OntarioVHFAssociation.html
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	www.pnwvhfs.org
Roadrunners Microwave Society	www.k5rmg.org
Rochester VHF Group	http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org
Rocky Mountain VHF+	www.qsl.net/rmvhf
San Bernadino Microwave Society	www.ham-radio.com/sbms
Six Club	www.6mt.com
Six Meter International Radio Klub	www.smirk.org
Sidewinders on Two	http://www.swotvhg.org/ or http://home.swbell.net/wd5djt/
Southeastern VHF Society	www.svhfs.org
Western States Weak Signal Society	www.wswss.org

Noteworthy among this group is the Northeast Weak Signal Group which meets a half a dozen times a year in Enfield CT and sponsors the Eastern VHF Conference each year. Another major operating group in the region is the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force which is the group behind the world class operation of W2SZ/1 and one of the leaders among them is Dick Frey WA2AAU who is one of our local hams (and a Broughton Award recipient) who frequently has done presentations on VHF for SARA in years past.. And don't forget the winter is a good time to work on VHF and up projects and test out new equipment and antennas. And the January VHF contest is only about 10 weeks away!

DECEMBER SARA MEETING:

The upcoming meeting on December 1st 2008 is going to be the annual holiday meeting and it will be held at Old Country Buffet on Albany Street next to the Crosstown Arterial (Rt.7). The OCB is an all you can eat buffet which is very reasonably priced. You simply pay for your buffet when you come in at the cashier and meet us in their private meeting room. This is similar to last year.

FREE – 50 ft tower with 4-element beam. You take down.
Call Earl ST Onge W2ZQA 518 399 8339

SARA's Board Of Directors 2008-2009

President: James Stewart K2PK *k2pk@arrl.net* 399-1867
VicePres.: Frank Simon WB2PUH *simonf072@strose.edu* 477-5255
Sec: Hal Post *AK2E* *ak2e@arrl.net* 584-6441
Treas: George Williams *W2CSN* *w2csn@arrl.net* 377-6188

Directors

Dan Fiorillo KC2MER *fiorillo.dan@verizon.net* 356-3595
Bill Mischler KG2AC *kg2ac@juno.com* 370-1350
Bob Saltzman WB2ARK *saltzman@nycap.rr.com* 370-2222
Bill Proctor KC2NXC *iproctor@nycap.rr.com* 372-1058

SARA's Standing Committees

SARA News Editor: Dan Whelan *n2ud@arrl.net* 895-2754
K2AE Trustee: Hal Post AK2E ak2e@arrl.net 584-6441
Rptr: Scott Krone N2YCA *n2yca@nycap.rr.com* 273-1610
RFI: Rudy Dehn W2JVF *w2jvf@juno.com* 372-6139
Public Service: Ken Clikeman AA2CW
free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com 861-6825
VE Team: Bill Mischler KG2AC *kg2ac@juno.com* 370-1350

VE Registration (518) 370-1350

S A R A
Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

SARA Dues: Regular Member $20 _____ New Member Initiation $5 _____ Repeater Fund $_____
Family Member $5 _____ Student Member $5 _____ SARA News US postal delivery *Add $5* _____

Name _____ Callsign _____

Email _____ (SARA News is sent via Email)

Street _____ I belong to ARRL ___ ARES _____ RACES ____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Mail to: **Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Inc.; P.O. Box 449; Schenectady, NY 12301**

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