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May 2009

SARA General Meeting, Monday May 4th , 2009 at 7:00PM
in "the Little Theater" Room D-104 at Niskayuna High School

Finding Lost Satellites Using Ionospheric Propagation

The speaker for the May meeting will be Clayt Roberts W1MVV from Syracuse. He and the late Howard Lester W2ODC once found a lost satellite using ionospheric disturbances. Clayt will give an account of what they went through to successfully find it. Since ionospheric propagation is an important part of much amateur radio activity, studies involving the ionosphere are always timely and interesting.

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.

In the event of a major snow storm or another serious condition that cancels Niskayuna High School for evening classes and activities, the SARA meeting will normally be cancelled for that evening. Tune to the SARA K2AE 147.06 repeater for further information about the status of the meeting and if it is to be rescheduled from one of the SARA Officers: Jim - K2PK, Frank - WB2PUH, Hal - AK2E or George - W2CSN or SARA board members: Dan - KC2MER, Bill - KG2AC, Bob - WB2ARK or Bill - KC2NXC.

DID YOU KNOW? Back Issues of SARA News from the last several years are now on-line and can be downloaded. *There is even one there from 70 years ago!* Just go to our website www.k2ae.org and follow the link on the left side to the page of available SARA News issues. (Thanks to Dennis Hudson N2LBT).

FIELD DAY IS COMING! Join us all for the annual operating and general fun that the annual ARRL operating event brings us. We need lots of help and in addition to being great fun it is a good time to introduce friends and families to ham radio. We set up on Friday afternoon before and operate through the weekend. Circle your calendar for the weekend of Saturday June 27 and Sunday June 28th. Be sure to join us!

REMINDER - TIME TO RENEW: SARA's Membership year begins with our last meeting of the season, our annual Business meeting in June. So, be sure to renew and be a supporter of SARA.

ABOUT SARA NEWS by Dan Whelan N2UD - SARA NEWS EDITOR

It has now been two years since I took on the task of serving as the SARA News Editor. In this time we have had some significant changes in the SARA News, so this is about how the last 19 issues have gone. First and foremost every member of SARA should realize that this newsletter has a 79 year heritage of serving the needs of our club and that is something that all those who have worn the hat of SARA News Editor have taken pretty seriously through the last 79 years. SARA as a club is not by any means a one or two person operation but the newsletter is one of the tangible things you actually get to see and hold in your hands. In the last few years the work at SARA has fallen on fewer people like most clubs since people seem to be busier. Fortunately the technology we have makes things go a bit easier than it did in days past but each issue still involves hours and hours of work each month. In addition to myself special thanks go to Tim Long W2UI who maintains the membership and email lists for SARA and Dennis Hudson N2LBT who maintains the WWW.K2AE.ORG website; both of whom do essential work in keeping SARA's operations viable.

The last 19 SARA News issues (counting this month) have been an average monthly size of 5.5 pages of content not including the many pages of SARA News Extra!. There have been 2 issues of 8 pages, 1 issue of 7 pages, 9 issues of 6 pages and 7 issues of 4 pages. Original content and information for the SARA News can often take much more time than most members might imagine. For example a couple issues a year I have tried to include historical content related to SARA and our local area which sometimes that can take days or even weeks to research for appropriate materials. Among the new changes to the SARA News since September 2007 has been the addition of the "SARA News Extra" which is an email only supplement to SARA News which contains a variety of additional materials that are available to SARA mainly from the ARRL and some other sources. It also is a place where additional content which does not fit in the regular SARA News can be included from time to time. Typical content of SARA News Extra is typically more than 50 pages each month covering all manner of ham radio related issues.

But perhaps the biggest change in SARA News is the move from a paper news letter to an email and web based information source for our club. This has been a nearly decade long process with special thanks that again go to Tim W2UI and Dennis N2LBT who have done much to make this begin to happen before I took on the task of editor. This change has allowed for more timely delivery, increased newsletter content, significantly reduced costs to the club and a reduction of the tedious work involved in getting a newsletter mailed out. At present nearly ¾ of all of our members now get their SARA News electronically.

The other improvement has been allowing for a tighter timeline for the final version of SARA News to be composed closer to the meeting date. This change is important because the details of the upcoming SARA meeting seem to often change within less than 7 days before the meeting which effects the entire workflow at the last minute. And lastly the web based information on SARA which Dennis N2LBT manages, is an important item for many. This month you will note on the front page that the SARA website now has an archive of recent back issues of SARA News as well.

These changes to SARA News have allowed both improved services to our members as well as savings in operating expenses. With SARA's 80th year at hand, our hope is that we can continue to serve SARA well.

LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE FOR 2009 BROUGHTON AWARD

This year the Broughton committee is chaired by Paul Siemers WV2F, Tim Long W2UI, and George Williams W2CRS. This annual award is traditionally given at our June annual business meeting so the time is at hand to make nominations of those who have made long term contributions to our club, amateur radio in general or the state of the art technically. Please contact any one of the committee members or Paul at siemers@crd.ge.com make your suggestion for who may be a long time deserving ham to be considered.

SARA FIELD DAY IS COMING JUNE 27th and 28th!

Images of some past Field Days:



SARA BOARD MEETING MINUTES: 15 April 2009

Location: Niskayuna Friendly's - Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

Present: K2PK, WB2PUH, W2CSN, KC2MER
WB2ARK, KG2AC

Secretary's report accepted

Treasurer's report given and accepted

Old Business:

Broughton material has been ordered.

Nomination Committee: Still seeking some positions.

Any one wishing to run for a Board position please contact Jim k2pk@arrl.net

Field Day: Preparations in progress.

New Business:

Equipment storage: Unnecessary field day equipment i.e. old computers and monitors will be scrapped. (Anyone wishing to have one, more or all computers and monitors

pleas contact Dennis Hudson and/or Tim Long). Dennis is moving and will no longer be able to store the new Field day computers and monitors. Anyone having room to store this equipment please contact K2PK , Tim and Dennis. If we can not find a volunteer to store this equipment we will have to rent a storage unit. The new computers have a small desktop format and do not require a large amount of space.

Programs: May meeting speaker is about set and June is our annual business meeting and award presentations.

Submitted by
Hal AK2E - Secretary

The next SARA board meeting will be 7 PM May 13 at the Niskayuna Friendly's. This is usual time and location for the Wednesday of the week following the SARA general meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website
1-2 May 2009	Near-Fest Hamfest Deerfield Fairgrounds, NH	Deerfield, NH http://near-fest.com/
4 May 2009	SARA Meeting – 7 PM	Rm.D-104 Niskayuna High School
9 May 2009	East Greenbush ARA Hamfest (W2EGB)	East Greenbush http://www.w2egb.org
15-17 May 2009	ARRL National Convention (Dayton Hamvention)	Dayton,OH http://www.hamvention.org
30 May 2009	75 th Rochester Hamfest www.rochesterham.org "	New site: Barnard Carnival Grounds
13-14 June 2009	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	2pm Sat.-11pm Sun.
27-28 June 2009	ARRL Field Day / SARA Field Day	Glenville Hills Fire Department

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

SARA's Board Of Directors 2008-2009

President: James Stewart K2PK k2pk@arrl.net 399-1867
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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 _____

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