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June, 2009

SARA Field Day 2009

Field Day weekend will be here soon and good times will be had by all. Planning has been underway for some time and some preparations have already been completed (reserving the field, lining up rigs, etc.) SARA will again be running 5A and will have a GOTA station in the Schenectady County Emergency Command vehicle (C100).

Things get started on Thursday night when the antenna plan is laid out and the part of the field where the tent will be gets mowed again. Friday morning, June 26, at 9:00 AM we meet at the farm and begin the convoy of the generator, the crank-up tower, and box trailer to the FD site. Trailers then get unloaded and equipment positioned in the field. Formal set-up begins on Friday afternoon at 2:00 PM. Antenna poles are put up, guyed, and feed lines run, the tent is erected, and the tables and chairs set up.

On Saturday morning, June 27 at 9:00 AM members and more equipment arrive, and things begin to take final shape quickly. Computers are updated and networked, rigs brought in, installed and tested. Finally antennas are hung and feed lines run, and the antenna/feed line combinations are tested to make sure everything is up to snuff.

At 2:00 PM on Saturday it's time to get operating. We'll have six stations set up, 3 for CW and 3 for SSB, and will operate 2-CW & 3-SSB or 3-CW & 2 SSB depending on the preferences and skills of the operators. We're looking to maximize Bonus Points so there'll be lots of extra activity. We'll have an information table and GOTA station in the C100, and will be running an alcohol-fueled generator.

Later in the day the night crew arrives and seriously starts working the bands. The pace diminishes some in the early morning hours but picks back up as the day crew comes back on. Finally, things will slow down after noon on Sunday, as the realization that of long hours of operating come with a price.

Quitting time is 2:00 PM on Sunday and it's all over but the tear down and tallying up our score. Tear down goes much more quickly than set up and we'll be done and packed up well before 5:00 PM. Just before we leave the field for another year, we'll share a time honored and much appreciated tradition of celebrating the end of Field Day with watermelon for all. After some good fellowship, we'll depart for



other pursuits including some well deserved rest. Meanwhile work will begin on summarizing our results and preparing them for submission to ARRL (no rest for the Chairman).

We're hoping our planning efforts pay off in higher scores and a larger number of visitors, but most of all in more fun. Be sure you're there to share in the good times.

You can see SARA's Field Day planning information on the web site at www.k2ae.org

Silent Key

Sadly, Dan Whelan, N2UD, ex WB2WHD, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, May 27, at his home in Delanson. Dan was a former SARA President and Board Member, the 1992 Broughton Award winner, and at the time of his passing, Editor of SARA News.

Outgoing President's Report

The impulse for starting SARA was analysis following a storm in 1929. SARA was organized the following year, which makes next year the 80'th anniversary of the club. In 80 years SARA has had many high points and faced many challenges. The big challenge of today is declining membership and attendance. We have many dedicated faithful members, but recognize the recent loss of Dan N2UD leaves yet another pair of shoes to fill.

SARA is a general interest club, in distinction from clubs that almost exclusively focus on one specific area of amateur radio: emergency communications or DX for example. One of the strengths of amateur radio as a hobby is the wide variety of activities possible. Bored with ham radio? Then try something new! This is sporadic E season on 6 meters when Europe can be heard at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Or maybe it is time to get active in public service events, experimenting with equipment, or getting active on new modes.

As a general interest club, one of the purposes of SARA is to give opportunity for face-to-face contact with others who share the same interests. It also allows each of us to broaden our amateur radio horizons by finding out what others are doing. This general interest nature may be our greatest strength and our best opportunity for attracting and retaining new members. It is important not only to recognize visitors and new hams when they come to meetings, but to get to know them and involve them in club activities. I tried to get this going in the past year by starting each meeting recognizing visitors, but it is still possible for visitors to leave without actually getting to know any of the members. It takes a little effort, but just talking to each other before and after meetings will encourage each of us in our radio activity, and could just ignite a spark in some new people.

Even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle it has been a good year. I hope to do my part to make next year even better.

73, Jim K2PK



Board Meeting May 13, 2009

The May 13 SARA Board meeting was held at Friendly's in Niskayuna.

Present:

President.....Jim Stewart, K2PK	Directors..... Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK
Vice-President.....Frank Simon, WB2PUH	Dan Fiorillo, KC2MER
TreasurerGeorge Williams, W2CSN	Raleigh Keeter, K2RI

The Minutes of the March 11 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved.

Broughton award medallions are to be shipped by end of May; a nomination for the award has been made.

Frank, WB2PUH, is working on plaque to remember Howard Lester, W2ODC, for Alplaus FD by July 4

The Board was updated on plans for Field Day and storage of SARA equipment

Jim, K2PK, and Dan, KC2MER, are planning to meet with representatives of Schoharie ARC about what the clubs might do together.

June Meeting

SARA's June meeting, held on June 1, was the annual Business Meeting 20 and included election of Officers and Directors as well as presentation of awards. The following Officers and Directors were elected.

President.....Dan Fiorillo, KC2MER	Directors.....Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK
Vice-President.....Jim Stewart, K2PK	Bill Mischler, KG2AC
TreasurerTim Long, W2UI	Frank Simon, WB2PUH
Secretary.....Hal Post, AK2E	

Normally the Broughton Award is made at the June meeting. Unfortunately the 2009 winner was unable to be at the meeting so the award will be made in September

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Larry Eaton, KC2BLC, Raleigh Keeter, K2RI, Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, and Ken Clikeman, AA2CW.

Sara News Extra Links

The *ARES E-Letter* (<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/>) is an e-mail digest of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The *ARRL Letter* (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>) is an e-mail digest of news and information of interest to ARRL members.





Canalfest 2009

Radio Amateurs from around the Capital District will be at Collins Park/Freedom Park in Scotia, NY on August 8-9 from noon until 4:00 PM to take part in Canalfest 2009. Canalfest is a celebration of our Erie Canal Heritage and we've been invited by the Glenville Park Planning Commission to have an amateur radio presence.

Special Event call sign "N2Y" has been assigned to this event for this weekend only. Information can be found on the ARRL Special Event web page and in the August 2009 issue of QST, and possibly in CQ (no confirmation at this time.)

Operations will be conducted from the Schenectady County Emergency Command (C100) van. We'll be operating phone on 14.245 and 7.245, PSK on 14070, and CW on 14060. All frequencies are approximate but we'll be close to them if they're not available. We'll also be on the 147.300 repeater (plus shift, no tone) so if you don't have HF you can still take part.

Stop by to participate, attend a demonstration of amateur operations, traffic handling, net operations, PSK, APRS, or satellite, get some operating time, or just hang out. Licensed amateurs and non-amateurs alike are welcome to operate. Visitors will be given operating priority and time based on demand. All operators will be presented with an N2Y Special Event Operator certificate when they make QSOs on the Special Event Station rigs.

For contacts made from other stations with the Special Event Station made from noon to 4:00 PM on August 8 and 9, we'll be issuing a N2Y Special Event QSL card. This is a custom designed QSL card that will be available only during this event.

Changes at the SARA News

With the passing of Dan Whelan the SARA News is without an editor. While this edition was put together with contributions from several SARA members, SARA is seeking an editor for the SARA News. Anyone who has an interest in being editor is asked to contact any SARA Officer or Director and let them know. As the next edition isn't due out for some time, there will be plenty of time to prepare.

This issue is focused on the club and its activities, as well as local events that may be of interest to SARA members. There will be no Extra Edition however a section titled SARA News Extra Links is included containing links to the ARRL web site should you wish to access the material previously included in the Extra Edition.

SARA Picnic

Reservations have been made for the SARA Picnic in Greenfield Town Park in Middle Grove (N 43.088607, W -73.916617) on September 19th, with a 1:00 PM start time. (The 12th and 13th were already booked.) Hal will provide charcoal, paper plates and plastic cutlery. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to pass and whatever non-alcoholic beverage they want to drink. Please let Hal Post, AK2E, know if you will be attending at ak2e@arrl.net or by phone (518) 306-6817.



SARA Public Service Events

Thanks to the following amateurs who helped with the following Public Service Events.

The CROP Walk, Sunday, May 3, 2009: Andy, KB2TSA, Bill, W2DHT, Clark, KG2AO, Ken, AA2CW, Larry, KC2BLC, Raleigh, K2RI, Rudy, W2JVF

The 2009 Niskaday Parade May 16, 2009: Bill, KG2AC, Bill, W2DHT, Clark, KG2AO, Craig, W2XAD, Don, W2CJO, Ken, AA2CW, Millie, KB2SWR, Raleigh, K2RI, Sid, W2SID

The 2009 Scotia Parade May 20, 2009: Clark, KG2AO, Craig, W2XAD, Ken, AA2CW, Larry, KC2BLC, Millie, KB2SWR, Raleigh, K2RI, Tony, W2BEJ

We're adding a new event this year, a Bikethon, to be held September 27. Ken is also looking into another request for help with an Ironman Contest on July 25. Watch the SARA website for more details. If you're interested in participating in any of the PSEs, contact Ken, AA2CW. His contact information is on the last page or see him at a Club meeting.

Coming Events

Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website	Date	Time
SARA Field Day	Glenville Hills FD N. Field	Jun 26-28	8:00 AM
Alplaus Parade	Alplaus	Jul 4	9:00 AM
Utica Hamfest	Frankfort NY	Jul 18	8:00 AM
Ironman	Lake Placid	Jul 26	TBD
Canalfest 2009	Collins Park/Freedom Park	Aug 8-9	12 - 4 PM
56th Annual Rome Hamfest	Westmoreland NY	Aug 15	8:00 AM
Saratoga Hamfest	Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa	Sep 12	9:00 AM
SARA Picnic	Town Park, Middle Grove	Sep 19	1:00 PM
Bikethon	TBD	Sep 27	TBD
34th Stockade-athon	Schenectady	Nov 8	9:30 AM

Schenectady County Emergency Net

SARA members act as Net Control Stations for the Schenectady County Emergency Net (SCEN) on Sunday afternoons. The net is open to all amateurs; you do not have to be an ARES RACES member to participate in the net. The purpose of the net is to train, pass any traffic that you might have and any announcements of general interest. Raleigh, K2RI, is net control for the VHF and UHF nets and Larry, KC2BLC, is net control for the HF net.

Section	Frequency	Time (Local)
440	444.200 Repeater	1:00 PM
2-Meter	147.060 Repeater	1:30 PM
HF	3953 KHz	2:00 PM

SARA's Board of Directors 2008 2009

President: Jim Stewart, K2PK, K2PK@arrl.net, 399-1867

VicePres: Frank Simon, WB2PUH, simonf072@strose.edu, 477-5255

Secretary: Hal Post, AK2E, AK2E@arrl.net, 584-6441

Treasurer: 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

Standing Committees

SARA News Editor:

K2AE Trustee: Hal Post, AK2E, AK2E@arrl.net, 584 6441

Repeater: Scott Krone, N2YCA, N2YCA@nycap.rr.com, 273-1610

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

Public Service: Ken Clikeman, AA2CW,

free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com, 861-6825

VE Team: Bill Mischler, KG2AC, KC2AC@juno.com, 370-1350

FCC Exam Registration: 370-1350


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*	\$ _____

Name _____ Call _____

E-mail _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

ARRL _____ RACES _____ ARES _____ MARS _____

Send to SARA, PO Box 207, Alplaus, NY 12008-0207
July, 2009 through June, 2010