



SARA Meeting November 2

Photovoltaic Power Generation Reaches a Critical Threshold

Philip Barker - Founder and Principal Engineer, Nova Energy Specialists, LLC

The harnessing of solar energy as a significant source of electric power has been a goal of humankind before even the first practical solar cell was created by Bell Laboratories over 50 years ago. Since that time, a steady progression of technology innovations and cost reduction has brought PV energy to the transition point where today it is just starting to enter the realm of a mainstream energy technology. The coming two decades promises to be the era where photovoltaic energy finally becomes a significant contributor to electric power generation in this country. This presentation will review the progression of PV technologies, their current status, discuss emerging technical advances, and attempt to predict where we may be in another 5, 10 and 20 years. Today's PV applications range from large grid-connected multi-megawatt scale power plants down to small portable off-grid supplies suitable for ham radio hobbyists to use in a variety of applications. The talk will also include discussion of concepts/practices for small scale PV supplies suitable for both Ham Radio and various backup power applications.

Phil was active in the ham radio club in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He held an Advanced Class License with call sign KA2DXZ (his license expired in 1994).

Location: SARA meetings are held in Niskayuna High School in the "Little Theater" Room D-104. Due to construction access is from the rear parking lot, off Nott Street Extension. Turn onto Nott Street Extension from Balltown Road and drive past the shopping mall on the left. The entrance is on the left side of the road and marked.

Cancellations: If Niskayuna High School cancels evening classes and activities the SARA meeting will normally also be cancelled and possibly rescheduled. Listen in on the SARA 147.060 repeater for meeting status information and whether it is to be rescheduled.



Programs: For the 2009-2010 meetings, Jim, K2PK, is scheduling programs in four different areas to have something of interest for everyone in the club: General Interest in September and again in December, Operating in October, Technical in November, and Emergency Preparedness in January and February (see table below for details). All schedules are subject to change of course. We're looking for ideas for programs or people who have something they would be willing to present. If you have an idea for a program, something you'd like to learn about or speak about, contact Jim, K2PK. Stay tuned for updates.

Meeting	Program
Nov 2009	Solar Power by Phil Barker (former amateur)
Dec 2009	Holiday Dinner at United Buffet
Jan 2010	Traffic and Emergency Nets by Larry Eaton NT2B
Feb 2010	Mohawk River Flooding by Tim Long W2UI

Board Meeting

October 14, 2009, 7:05 to 8:10 PM

LT's Restaurant at Balltown and Nott Street Extension

Present:

President	Dan Fiorillo KC2MER	Board Members	Bill Mischler KG2AC
Vice President	Jim Stewart K2PK		Frank Simon WB2PUH
Secretary	Hal Post AK2E		
Treasurer	Tim Long W2UI		

Meeting called to order by President Fiorillo at 7:05 PM

Agenda:

Secretary's report accepted as published.

Treasurer's report accepted. Tim will prepare this years budget.

Old Business:

Field Day Generator: Tabled to next meeting

Repeaters: Funds are approved to purchase a new controller and a 220 PA. Hal will work with Scott and John on arrangements.

New Members: Hal and Tim will send Dan copies of the old welcoming information.

Vacant Board Position: No one has volunteered to run for the position. If any full membership member wishes to seek the opened Board position, please let anyone of the association officers know. Your input is important.

80th Celebration: Jim is working on getting a high profile speaker for Spring.

SARA News Editor: Larry NT2B continues to fill the position. The board is looking to reduce the number of mailed copies. **No mailed copies after this fiscal year!** If any members have computer access – please arrange to receive your news letter on line. Anyone wishing to be the SARA News Editor please contact any association officer.





W2ODC Plaque: Frank is making an effort to complete the plaque.

Meeting adjourned at 08:10 PM

Submitted by: Secretary Post AK2E

SARA Shirts

If there is sufficient demand, W2XM would be pleased to order golf shirts for SARA members. Bob is not yet ready to place the order; if you have interest or an idea for the design, contact him at W2XM@arrl.net or 459-8435. At this time, we're thinking of golf shirts with a pocket, either charcoal gray or gold in color, with an emblem that looks like the old SARA patch (black and gold) on the right side of the chest, and with callsign, name, and pocket on the left side. Cost would be \$18 per shirt (\$2.50 extra for 2XL and larger).

Antenna Party and Elmer Committees

Antenna Party Committee: This committee was established to match up those with a need for help and those with a talent, knowledge, and a willingness to assist. If you are in need of assistance with an antenna issue, advice and labor will be freely given. If you're interested in becoming a member of this committee, your assistance will be appreciated. In either case, contact Tim Long, W2UI.

Elmer Committee: The Elmer Committee is all about sharing knowledge and experience, maintaining a safe operating environment, and keeping smoke in its rightful place. If you'd like to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge available, perhaps save some time or money, and maintain safety, contact Tim Long, W2UI. Amateurs interested in joining this committee are asked to contact Tim and let him know.

SARA Facebook Page

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association has a Facebook page and several SARA members have already joined the group. Navigate to facebook.com, enter "Schenectady Amateur Radio Association" in the Search box, and click on Join Group. It's that easy!

Editor and Authors Needed for SARA News

Editor: SARA is looking for an editor for the SARA News. If you are interested in being editor of the SARA News please contact any SARA Officer or Director and let them know.

Authors: If you would like to write for the SARA News, have an article ready for submission, or have a story idea, contact a club officer, director, or the interim editor. We're particularly interested in stories about the club, its members, and their amateur radio related activities.

SARA Dues Reminder

The SARA membership year runs from July to June and the 2009-2010 dues are due. Please use the form on the last page or see Tim, W2UI, Treasurer at the meeting.





Public Service Events

SARA members have a long tradition of participating in Public Service Events. While the events that members participate in have changed over time, as have the members involved, the constant is the service provided.

For the past few years things have gotten started in early May with the Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty or CROP Walk. This is a walk through various parts of Schenectady sponsored by local ministries. Mid-May brings Niska Days, where members provide communications support for the Niskayuna community celebration. This event is sponsored by the Niskayuna Community Action Program (N-CAP). Later in the month, although not on Memorial Day, members support the Scotia Memorial Day Parade, which honors our fallen veterans. This is a large event, with over 3000 participants and about 8,000 spectators, for which planning starts in October.

On July 4, members provide communications support for the Alplaus Parade, a step back to quieter and friendlier times. Think 1950s small town parade, it's a great experience. In the fall, members participate in the Stockade-athon, a Veteran's Day Weekend 15K foot race through Schenectady hosted by the Mohawk Hudson Road Runners Club. SARA members are also called upon to participate in PSEs run by other local clubs and organizations. Foot races, bike races, and walks are frequent events.

Most events take a few hours while some are all day events. For most events the only requirements are a 2-Meter HT (programmed for the 147.060 repeater with 146.550 simplex for backup) and a desire to participate. Some events, particularly the long distance bike races, use APRS.

The PSE coordinator for SARA is longtime club member Ken Clikeman, AA2CW. In case you don't recognize his name or call, perhaps you'll recall the gentleman with the clipboard at the Club meetings asking for volunteers to participate in PSEs. Ken is also a regular on the 440 and 2-Meter Schenectady County Emergency Nets with the ever-present announcement calling for volunteers. Always upbeat and pleasant, Ken keeps at it until the rosters are filled. What some may not be aware of is Ken's behind the scenes work, attending parade committee meetings and working with event staff.

Participating in these events is a good way to support community activities, to use your amateur radio skills, and to meet a lot of nice people. Some events provide one or more meals and nearly all provide an event tee-shirt to participating amateurs.

If you've never participated and are interested, you can get started by listening on the 147.060 SARA repeater during the event (if it's one of the SARA events listed above). Better yet, choose the type(s) of event you would like to participate in based on your interests, let Ken know you're interested, and he'll put you on the list

If you'd like to know more about public service events and how they are conducted, check out the ARRL *The Special Events Communication Manual* edited by Steve Ewald, WV1X, on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/spevman/index.html>. You'll also find links to a number of past events and QST articles on *Supporting Public Service Events – Parts 1 & 2* by Rick Palm, K2CE.



SARA Public Service Events

The 34th Stockade-athon will be in November. SARA provides communications support for this event each year. If you're interested in participating in any of the PSEs, contact Ken, AA2CW.

Coming Events

Contest / Hamfest / Event	Location / Website	Date	Time
SARA Meeting	Niskayuna High School	Nov 2	7:00 PM
34th Stockade-athon	Schenectady	Nov 8	9:30 AM
SARA Board Meeting	LT's Restaurant, Niskayuna	Nov 11	7:00 PM
SARA Holiday Dinner	United Buffet	Dec 7	6:00 PM

Schenectady County Emergency Net

SARA members act as Net Control Stations for the Schenectady County Emergency Net (SCEN) on Sunday afternoons. The nets are open to all amateurs; ARES RACES membership is not required to participate. The purpose of the nets is to train, pass any traffic that you might have and any announcements of general interest. With repairs underway on the 220 repeater we'll be looking to get that net going again and the 6-Meter repeater is just waiting for a Net Control Station to get things going there. If you're interested, get in touch with Raleigh or Larry for a Net Script and you'll be good to go.

Section	Frequency	Time (Local)	Net Control
440	444.200 Repeater	1:00 PM	Raleigh K2RI
2-Meter	147.060 Repeater	1:30 PM	Raleigh K2RI
HF	3953 KHz	2:00 PM	Larry NT2B

Buy, Sell or Swap

If you have items you would like to sell or trade, or are looking for something, we'd be glad to list them in the SARA News (non-commercial only, subject to space limitations). To do so please contact the SARA News editor. If you prefer, you could also post them on the SARA Yahoo Reflector at sara@yahoogroups.com. To post on the reflector you'll have to join the e-group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sara/>, it's easy and it's free.

SARA Repeaters

Status	ON AIR	ON AIR	OFF THE AIR	ON AIR
Band	6-Meters	2-Meters	1.25-Meters	70-Centimeters
User TX	52.570 MHz	147.660 MHz	222.460 MHz	449.200 MHz
User RX	53.570 MHz	147.060 MHz	224.060 MHz	444.200 MHz

SARA's Board of Directors 2009-2010

President: Dan Fiorillo, KC2MER, fiorillo.dan@verizon.net, 356-3595

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

Secretary: Hal Post, AK2E, AK2E@arrl.net, 306-6817

Treasurer: Tim Long, W2UI, tlong8@earthlink.net, 399-7454

Directors

Bill Mischler, KG2AC, KG2AC@juno.com, 370-1350

Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK, saltzman@nycap.rr.com, 370-2222

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

Standing Committees

SARA News Editor:

Antenna Party: Tim Long, W2UI, tlong8@earthlink.net, 399-7454

Elmer: Tim Long, W2UI, tlong8@earthlink.net, 399-7454

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 (New Members)	\$ _____

Name _____ Call _____

E-mail _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

ARRL _____ RACES _____ ARES _____ MARS _____

Send to SARA, PO Box 449, Schenectady, NY 12301
July, 2009 through June, 2010