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# SARA NEWS

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

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## A Message from the President

2015 was a great year! A lot of work by a lot of hams made it that way. I will always be impressed by all of you who put your heart and muscle into the efforts that made this a great year.

You all know who you are and all I can say is thank you from my heart.

2016 should be a year to look forward to. I hope we can all plan ahead to make 2016 better in every way.

If you see any snow and your cold, just think of one thing that will warm you up.

It's Field Day!

See you on January 4, 2016.

73 de W2XAD

# SARA General Meeting

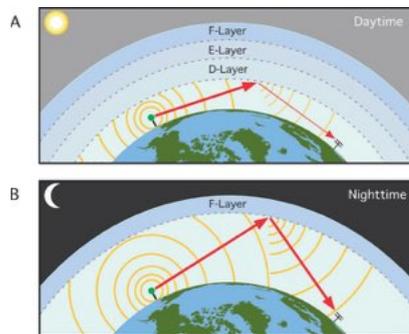
Monday, January 4, 2016, 7:00 pm

## “The Ionosphere is Birefringent, or You Are Never Too Old to Learn”

Presented by Jim Stewart, K2PK

It does not take a lot of depth of knowledge about how our signals get from point A to point B to enjoy and productively use amateur radio. It also is true we never progress to the point where there isn't something new to learn.

This is a tale about how an almost throwaway line in a CQ magazine article led to one of those "Aha" moments when something I knew from on the air experience suddenly made sense from the physics of the ionosphere, and maybe some terrestrial things as well.



### Meeting Location

SARA meetings are held in the Little Theatre of the Niskayuna High School on Balltown Road unless otherwise noted.

Attendees should enter the school through the cafeteria entrance located on the side of the school, adjacent to the Nott Street Extension school parking lot.

### Our Speaker: Jim Stewart, K2PK

Jim has been a member of SARA nearly 40 years.

He is past president and vice president of SARA and is currently Board Secretary.

He was first licensed in 1954 as WN3ZIR with later calls W3ZIR, K2PKK and now K2PK.

While the bulk of his professional life was in the electric power industry first at Niagara Mohawk then in Schenectady at Power Technologies Inc., he also has had a hand in commercial radio at two AM broadcast stations and one FM station.

Jim is a Fellow of the IEEE and is on the ARRL CW DXCC Honor Roll.

### Cancellations

If Niskayuna High School cancels evening classes and activities the SARA meeting will also be cancelled.

[www.niskyschools.org](http://www.niskyschools.org)  
for school closing information.

## December Board Meeting Minutes

Wendy's, Route 50 Glenville

December 9, 2015

**Present:**

Craig Wood, W2XAD - President

Tim Long, W2UI - Treasurer

Jim Stewart, K2PK - Secretary

Paul Siemers, WY2F - Board Member

Dave Bradshaw, KD2FVM - Board Member

**Meeting opened** by President Wood at 7:10 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** The Board accepted the minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2015 as published.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reported by Treasurer Tim Long and accepted by the board.

**Repeater:** Discussion of access to the present repeater site and a possible alternate site.

**VE Coordinator:** Al Kozakiewicz will be traveling a lot for work over the next couple of years and can't continue being the contact point for VE's. Al will be asked to give the Board the list of present VE's and recommend a replacement for himself.

**Meeting Adjourned** 7:55 PM.

**Submitted by** Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

**Note:** The Wendy's location is much quieter than LT's and made for a more productive meeting.

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### Calendar of Events

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**January 4 at 7PM**

SARA General Meeting

**January 13 at 7PM**

SARA Board Meeting

Wendy's Restaurant

13 Saratoga Rd

Glenville, NY

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### Website

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Visit the club's website at:

<http://www.k2ae.org>

## Flash Back from 1966

Do you have any old news articles, club history, advertisement, etc. from the past that you think might be fun or interesting for current club members to see? Please send them in an email to [saranews@k2ae.org](mailto:saranews@k2ae.org) with the subject "SARA Newsletter Ideas". Please include your full name and call sign.

This article was from the Schenectady Union Star Newspaper on June 2, 1966, submitted by Jim Stewart. Notice the "portable two-way radio" in the picture.

How old were you in 1966? 🤔 Some of us youngsters were still in diapers at this time. If you have any old articles, please send them in and share them with the club. Our club history is too valuable to loose. We have such a great club with a lot of history, let's pass it along and share it with our new members.



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## Silent Key, Ivan D. Stillwell

Ivan D. Stillwell

July 8, 1928 - September 3, 2015 Obituary

Ivan D. Stillwell, 87, of Melbourne, Florida passed away Thursday, September 3, 2015. Ivan was born July 8, 1928 in Amsterdam, NY. Ivan leaves behind his wife, Beverly; sons, Craig of Albany, NY and Lee of West Palm Bay, Florida. Ivan retired from General Electric.

Thirty years ago a small group of Schenectady NY hams created the Electric City Chapter of Ten Ten. It was done at the home of Ivan Stillwell in Scotia, NY. We set out to tell the backstory of voice communication by radio frequency broadcast. The General Electric Company of Schenectady, New York had many giants in electricity and radio, and was given the name Electric City. Three of these giants are part of our story: Edison, Steinmetz, and mainly Alexanderson.

Reginald Fessenden came to Edison and asked for an alternator that could be modulated. This request was passed on to a young engineer, Ernest F. W. Alexanderson, who created the 50 kHz alternator that Fessenden used at Brandt Rock in the first voice broadcast on Christmas Eve 1906. Alexanderson was also instrumental in the development of television. The first television broadcast in the United States was to his GE Plot home at 1132 Adams Road, Schenectady, NY in 1927. Over his lifetime Alexanderson received 345 U.S. patents, the last filed in 1968 at age 89.

Ivan Stillwell (WA2OIZ) became the first and only certificate manager that Electric City has ever had. Ivan went to numerous 10X conventions and Dayton. He was a bulldog of amateur radio and 10X promoter. After retirement and moving to Florida he continued the Electric City Net. I (WA2TTI) had fallen off radio for a few years. All monies received by EC was used to further amateur radio. Books were donated to the Schenectady Library, and equipment to the W2IR station at the Schenectady Museum. I will now take over the certificate manager job and the weekly net.

Jerry Harley WA2TTI

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## All-Ham ISS Crew Increment Returns to Earth After 141 Days in Space

Three members of the International Space Station crew, all of them radio amateurs, returned safely to Earth on December 11. The trio, Astronauts Kimiya Yui, KG5BPH, and Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS, and Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, landed safely in their Soyuz spacecraft in Kazakhstan at 1312 UTC.

On December 15, three other radio amateurs — UK ESA astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, NASA astronaut Tim Kopra, KE5UDN, and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP — launched from Baikonur, Kazakhstan to replace the returnees.

See the International Space Station! As the third brightest object in the sky the space station is easy to see if you know when to look up.

NASA's Spot The Station service gives you a list of upcoming sighting opportunities for thousands of locations worldwide, and will let you sign up to receive notices of opportunities in your email inbox or cell phone. The space station looks like a fast-moving plane in the sky, but it is dozens of times higher than any airplane and traveling thousands of miles an hour faster. It is bright enough that it can even be seen from the middle of a city!

To learn more about NASA's Spot The Station service, please visit <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>.

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## Topics for Future SARA Meetings?

### Your suggestions are needed

We welcome your suggestions for future meeting topics.

If you have a topic that you would like to present, or know of someone who could present a topic of interest to the club, please contact Jim Silva, KC2ZVK at [jsilva.ny@gmail.com](mailto:jsilva.ny@gmail.com).

We have a few openings for the rest of this year.

Jim Silva

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## K2AE Repeaters Guidelines

### **K2AE Repeaters are open and visitor friendly.**

1. There will be a control operator monitoring at all times. If there is no control operator, the repeater will be unavailable. (97.103 and 97.105)
2. Control operators will not discourage anyone from using the repeater.
3. Conduct on the repeaters should be governed by common sense and courtesy. Conversations should be in plain language and suitable for all listeners. (97.112 and .113)
4. No commercial business use is allowed.
5. Pause a few seconds between transmissions. The repeater will recycle. This gives a chance for other users or emergency traffic to call in. (Give even a longer pause in Winter.)
6. If someone calls "Break", operators will yield the frequency for emergency traffic. Yielding to a "breaking" or new station is common courtesy. New York State and Federal law prohibit interference with emergency traffic.
7. Operators are encouraged to use simplex whenever possible. Operators are encouraged to use the minimum power necessary to maintain clear contact, i.e. 50 Watts or more is not appropriate in close proximity to the repeater when 1 or 5 watts achieve full quieting. (97.313)
8. Use of the repeater for non-SARA public service events is prohibited unless permission from the Trustee is obtained. Please forward requests to: [ak2e@arrl.net](mailto:ak2e@arrl.net).
9. In the event of an emergency (SKYWARN, flooding, weather conditions or other emergencies) control operators will turn the repeater on if it is down.

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## SARA YAHOO Group

When was the last time you checked out the SARA YAHOO Group?

Not a member? Sign up at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sara/info>



## Board of Directors/Officers

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### President

Craig Wood - W2XAD  
Email: w2xad1@verizon.net  
Phone: 370-5224

### Vice President

Jim Silva - KC2ZVK  
Email: jsilva.NY@gmail.com  
Phone: 877-8032

### Secretary

James Stewart - K2PK  
Email: k2pk@arrl.net  
Phone: 399-1867

### Treasurer

Tim Long - W2UI  
Email: tlong1@earthlink.net  
Phone: 399-7454

### Director

Paul Siemers - WY2F  
Email: psiemer2@nycap.rr.com  
Phone: 371-0215

### Director

James MacMurray - N2UZQ  
Email: n2uzq@arrl.net  
Phone: 772-9851

### Director

John Comanzo - KD2FVN  
Email: kd2fvn@arrl.net

### Director

Dave Bradshaw - KD2FVM  
Email: kd2fvm@arrl.net

## Standing Committees

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### SARA News

John Comanzo - KD2FVN  
Email: kd2fvn@arrl.net

### Elmer & Antenna Party

Tim Long - W2UI  
Email: tlong1@earthlink.net

### K2AE Trustee

Hal Post - AK2E  
Email: ak2e@arrl.net  
Phone: 306-6817

### Repeater

Scott Krone - N2YCA  
Email: n2yca@nycap.rr.com  
Phone: 273-1610

### RFI/TVI

Rudy Dehn - W2JVF  
Email: w2jvf@juno.com  
Phone: 372-6139

### Public Service Events

Tony Pazzola - W2BEJ

### VE Team

Al Kozakiewicz - AB2ZY  
Email: akozak@hourglass.com

### FCC Exam Registration

Phone: (518) 604-4128

# Schenectady County Emergency Net

SARA members act as Net Control Stations for the Schenectady County Emergency Net (SCEN) on Sunday afternoons.

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: JAMES MACMURRAY - N2UZQ**

DAY OF WEEK	TIME	FREQUENCY	MODE
Every Sunday	1:00 PM	444.200	K2AE Repeater
Every Sunday	1:30 PM	147.060	K2AE Repeater
1st Sunday	2:00 PM	3.953	LSB
2nd Sunday	2:00 PM	50.400	AM
3rd Sunday	2:00 PM	146.430	FM Simplex
4th Sunday	2:00 PM	28.325	USB
5th Sunday	2:00 PM	223.500	FM Simplex

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.



## SARA NEEDS YOU!

If you have any articles, information, tips, tricks or items for sale you would like to include in the SARA Newsletter, send an email to [saranews@k2ae.org](mailto:saranews@k2ae.org) with the subject "SARA Newsletter Ideas". Please include your full name and call sign.

## Do you know why "*Dues are Gladly Accepted*"?

Because it makes Tim happy!

### SARA DUES REMINDER

Have you paid your dues yet? The SARA membership year runs from July to June and the **2015-2016** dues are due. Please use the form on the last page or see Tim, W2UI, our Treasurer at the next meeting.



# SARA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues are gladly accepted (Please print legibly)

New Member

Renewal

Donation to the Repeater Fund. Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Class:**

Full (Licensed Amateur) - Dues: \$20.00/year

New Member Initiation - \$5.00/one time fee in addition to Full dues  
(Initiation fee is used to fund the Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Fund)

Spousal - Dues: \$5.00/year. Call sign of regular member: \_\_\_\_\_

Student (K-12 and full-time undergraduate college) - Dues: \$5.00/year

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Call Sign (if licensed): \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Newsletters will be distributed via email unless otherwise specifically requested)

Are you a member of  ARRL  ARES  RACES  NTS

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Please use a separate form for each member at your address.

Make checks payable to: Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

Mail your check and this completed form to:

**Schenectady Amateur Radio Association**  
**PO Box 449**  
**Schenectady, NY 12301**

You may also bring this form and your membership dues to the next SARA General meeting.