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# SARA NEWS

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## Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 449  
Schenectady, NY 12301-0449

### A Message from the President:

This will be my last letter to you as the SARA President. I am not leaving this Club. I am happy that we were still able to meet during the pandemic. We as hams had to learn about new ways to communicate. I am sure that even in our earlier days we all had to change with the times. I am sure that we might have some hams that still would like to bring back CW. I am curious to find out what the newest technology will be.

Will the three Schenectady radio clubs merge? How much smaller or larger will a handheld be? What bands will we have? How about the size of our antennas?

I am sure my thoughts could go on for a while. I wish all of you well. You can always contact me. I would like to thank the Board. They kept me on task. They had a hard job.

Please give them the support that you gave me.

73 DE N2PEQ



# The June SARA meeting will be held via Zoom.

Topics: Field Day 2021 and Annual Business Meeting

Speakers: Tim Long W2UI and James MacMurray N2UZQ

Date: Monday, June 7

Time: 6:30—7:00 on air (147.06 Repeater)...Check-ins, announcements

7:00—8:30 PM (via Zoom).....Main Meeting

(Zoom link will be sent out separately prior to the meeting)

**Tim Long** got his start in amateur radio in 1961 when he passed his Novice exam given by his scoutmaster WA2FFJ and received call WN2KHQ. That call sign became WB2KHQ, then WA4DXR, then WB2SPN, and now W2UI. Tim has served SARA in various positions including many years as Secretary, two stints as Vice President, two tours as President, and countless years as Treasurer (dues cheerfully accepted). Tim holds BSEE and MSCS degrees and is now retired after a career with Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corp. in West Milton. Besides ham radio antenna work and Field Day, Tim enjoys golf.

**James MacMurray** was born in 1972 and grew up in Scotia. James was licensed in 1993 and received his Extra while going to college for Data Communications. He is past president of SARA, current treasurer for SMARA, Emergency Coordinator for Schenectady County ARES, and Assistant Section Manager for Eastern NY. He has served as a Director for SARA for the past 6 years and served SMARA as a past President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Currently James is a full time Employee Retirement Examiner 3 for the State of New York Office of the State Comptroller. James has interests in VHF/UHF weak signal, HF phone, and HF Digital contesting.

The June meeting is also our annual business meeting, including our annual election of Board Members and Officers. Officers and Board of Directors Nominations for 2021-2022 are as follows:

President: Paul Siemers WY2F

Vice President: Jim Silva KC2ZVK

Secretary: Jim Stewart K2PK

Treasurer: Tim Long W2UI

Board Member: JR Hotaling N2PEQ

Board Member: Bob Saltzman WB2ARK

Board Member: Skip Evans W2YJL

Board Member: Terry Saunders N1KIN

Please plan to attend this meeting.

**SARA Virtual Board Meeting May 12, 2021**

**Note:** This meeting was held electronically due to the normal venue being closed by the government due to the corona virus pandemic.

**Present:**

JR Hotaling N2PEQ, President

Jim Silva KC2ZVK, Vice President

Tim Long W2UI, Treasurer

Jim Stewart K2PK, Secretary

Bob Saltzman WB2ARK, Board Member

Skip Evans W2YJL, Board Member

James MacMurray N2UZQ, Board member

Terry Saunders N1KIN, Board member

**Meeting opened** by President J. R. Hotaling at 7:06 PM.

**Meetings:** Jim Silva reported that he is working on re-scheduling Loren Libby WØLD for a future SARA meeting. The May substitute presentation by Tom Perera W1TP on Spy Radio Operations was very well received. June will be the Annual meeting and preparation for Field Day. The board discussed when to resume in-person meeting, possibly in September or October. The board discussed the different dynamics between in-person and Zoom meetings. Many regular in-person meeting attendees have not attended Zoom meetings and vice-versa. A possibility is Zoom meetings in January and February to avoid concerns about weather.

**Field Day:** Tim Long reported on Field Day plans, to do the same thing as last year. Tim has generators and lap tops that members can borrow for FD usage. Last year we did not take advantage of the bonus for receiving the Field Day message and we should do it this year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tim Long discussed the treasurer's report previously submitted to board members by email. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the treasurer's report as given. It was moved, se-

conded, and carried to accept Ridgewood MacDonald KB2HWL as a new member of SARA. Tim reported that the last trip to Rudy's house to clean out equipment is scheduled for Thursday morning at 8:30.

**Elections:** Officer and director candidates for election at the SARA June Annual Meeting recommended by the Nominations Committee appointed at the April SARA board meeting, and announced at the May monthly meeting are:

President: Paul Siemers WY2F

Vice-President: Jim Silva KC2ZVK

Secretary: Jim Stewart K2PK

Treasurer: Tim Long W2UI

Directors:

JR Hotaling N2PEQ

Skip Evans, W2YJL

Bob Saltzman WB2ARK

Terry Saunders N1KIN.

**Repeater:** JR Hotaling reported on the status of the repeaters.

**New Business:** JR Hotaling thanked James MacMurray for his work as a SARA officer and board member. JR also gave his thoughts on completing his term as SARA President. Board members thanked JR for his service to SARA.

**90th Anniversary:** On hold until the situation regarding in-person meetings is clearer.

**Standing Request for SARA News Editor:** The board is still looking for a volunteer to take over this position.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:51 PM.

Submitted by Jim Stewart K2PK, Secretary

## From NAA to Today: A Brief Look at Commercial and Military Call letters

On February 13, 1913, NAA, Radio Arlington (Virginia), the Navy's first high-power radio station, went on the air for the first time. NSS in Annapolis followed five years later. Then NAM Norfolk, NPG Stockton, CA, and a host of others entered the airways. NAA had a large coverage area and communicated with an installation on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Hams before World War II knew NAA as we know WWV today. Radio time signals for setting chronometers were sent with time supplied from a direct link with the clocks of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. The "N" in the call signs signified "Navy." "W" signified "wireless."

Any ham who operated the Military-Crossband Tests this past month has heard of NSS. NAM and NPG are among the stations that participated in former years. Army stations such as AAC, AAZ, and WAR were on this year, as was Air Force station AIR. Amateurs don't often get calls like this in their logs, and by doing so we have a direct link to the other services that have inhabited the radio spectrum over the years of radio history.

Hams of a certain age will recall commercial stations communicating by CW with ships at sea. Some of us may have gotten our code practice by listening to them. Lower power

coastal stations like WNY, the Port of New York, proliferated. Stations that come to mind for their strong signals here include:

WCC, "Wireless Cape Cod," Chatham, MA, perhaps the busiest of the coastal stations  
 WSC, RCA station over the years at several locations including Tuckerton, NJ  
 WSL, Amagansett, Long Island  
 CFH, Halifax, Nova Scotia

These coastal stations all had three letter calls. Three letter calls were used for coastal stations, four letter calls were for ships, and five letter calls were for airplanes. Call sign allocations around the world were governed then as now by the same prefix listing as are amateur call signs. Hence K, N, and W were the initial letters for U.S.A. stations. CFH is immediately identifiable as a Canadian station by the letters CF at the start of its call.

Some may recall the 1956 collision when the ocean liner Stockholm rammed the ocean liner Andria Doria in a dense fog off the Northeast Coast of North America. The Stockholm's call letters were SJET and the Andria Doria's were ICEH. We know that the Stockholm was registered in Sweden because its call started with the letters "SJ," and the Andrea Doria was registered in Italy because its call started with the letter "I." Navy ships also had four letter call signs. Active in this year's crossband test were NEPM / USS IOWA BB 61 LOS ANGELES, CA, NIIW / USS MIDWAY CV-41 SAN DIEGO, CA, and NWVC / LST-325 EVANSVILLE, IN. (continued)

NWVC's QSL from 2012 was in last month's SARA News.

Five letter calls were for airplanes. How many noticed while watching the pictures at March's meeting on Amelia Earhart that the identification on her plane's wing was a sequence of 5 letters starting with a K? The United States long ago ran out of the five letter airplane call signs and started using a sequence of alphanumeric characters always starting with "N." Most other countries still use five letter identifiers. Any active DX'er should be able to identify the nationality of an airplane by its call's correspondence to an amateur prefix somewhere in the world. If the call starts with HP, the plane is registered in Panama. Some countries put a space or a hyphen between the prefix and the remaining letters, while others run them all together.

There are other long forgotten call signs. Some Pre-World War II radios had a frequency range just above the AM standard broadcast band with a portion labeled "Police." Those were the days when the police dispatcher only had one way communication with the patrol cars by using medium frequency radio. Old time police movies and TV shows might have a scene where the dispatcher is saying "Calling all cars." This is what was going on in that scene. In the back of a former police precinct building on Grant Boulevard in Syracuse was a sign on the wall saying WPEA. This was the

location for the police dispatcher's transmitter on 1712 kHz, as shown on a 1931 list of licensed police transmitters. Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo are on that list, but neither Albany, Troy, nor Schenectady is there. WPXX calls dominate the list but other three and four letter combinations are also found.

The May SARA meeting program on Trans World Radio that did not happen is being rescheduled. It will include their operation on Bonaire Island in the Netherlands Antilles. I once asked somebody involved in broadcasting in Central America what the call letters were for the Bonaire TWR station and was told PJB. PJ is on the prefix list as Netherlands Antilles, so it fits.

Jim K2PK

For further information:

NAA: <http://www.navy-radio.com/commsta/arlington.htm>

NPG: <http://www.navy-radio.com/commsta/stockton.htm>

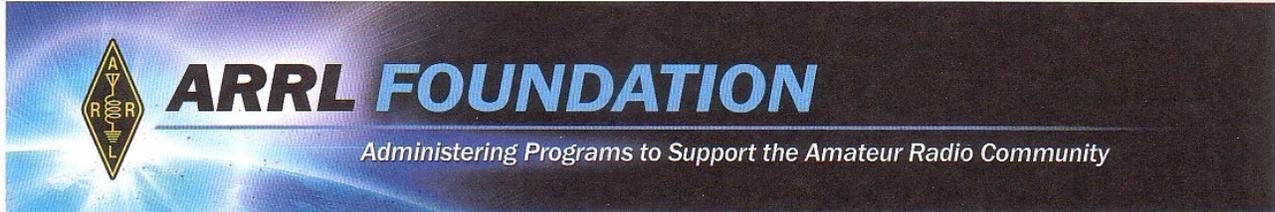
NSS: <http://www.navy-radio.com/commsta/anna.htm>

NSS: See the back of the 2018 100'th Anniversary QSL in May's SARA News.

Sinking of the Andrea Doria: <https://www.history.com/news/the-sinking-of-andrea-doria>

Police transmitters: <http://tenwatts.blogspot.com/2013/12/police-broadcasting-stations.html>

Here is an example of how the Henry Broughton, K2AE, Memorial Scholarship is impacting the next generation of amateur radio enthusiasts.



May 20, 2021

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

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the ARRL Foundation Officers and Board, I am pleased to announce the 2021 recipient of The Henry Broughton, K2AE, Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000.

Anthony Comanzo, KD2HJH, Schenectady, NY has been selected for The Henry Broughton, K2AE, Memorial Scholarship from an outstanding group of applicants. Scholarship recipients were recently notified of their awards, and we have already had many replies conveying their excitement and appreciation.

Scholarships through the ARRL Foundation would not be available without the support of thoughtful and generous sponsors such as you. Thank you for making The Henry Broughton, K2AE, Memorial Scholarship possible, and for aiding a student Amateur Radio operator in his/her pursuit of their higher education. I am confident that these young people will be successful in their future careers, and in representing Amateur Radio as well.

Again, many thanks for your support of this award. If you have any questions, please contact ARRL Foundation Secretary Melissa Stemmer, KA7CLO at ARRL ([mstemmer@arrrl.org](mailto:mstemmer@arrrl.org) or 860-594-0348).

73,

Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV  
President  
ARRL Foundation

**Armed Forces Day QSL Cards:**

Fill out and submit the form at this web page.

To request a QSL from any of the 2021 Armed Forces Day military stations go to:

<http://www.usarmymars.org/events/armed-forces-day>

Speaking of QSL cards, here are a few from **Rudy Dehn's** Collection. Note the postmark dates!

Kansas City 3446 Benton Blvd. Missouri

RADIO ..... Acknowledging QSO ..... 193 At ..... M.C.S.T.

UR Sigs QSA ..... R ..... QRI: ..... QRM ..... QRN ..... QRG .....

# W9DPJ

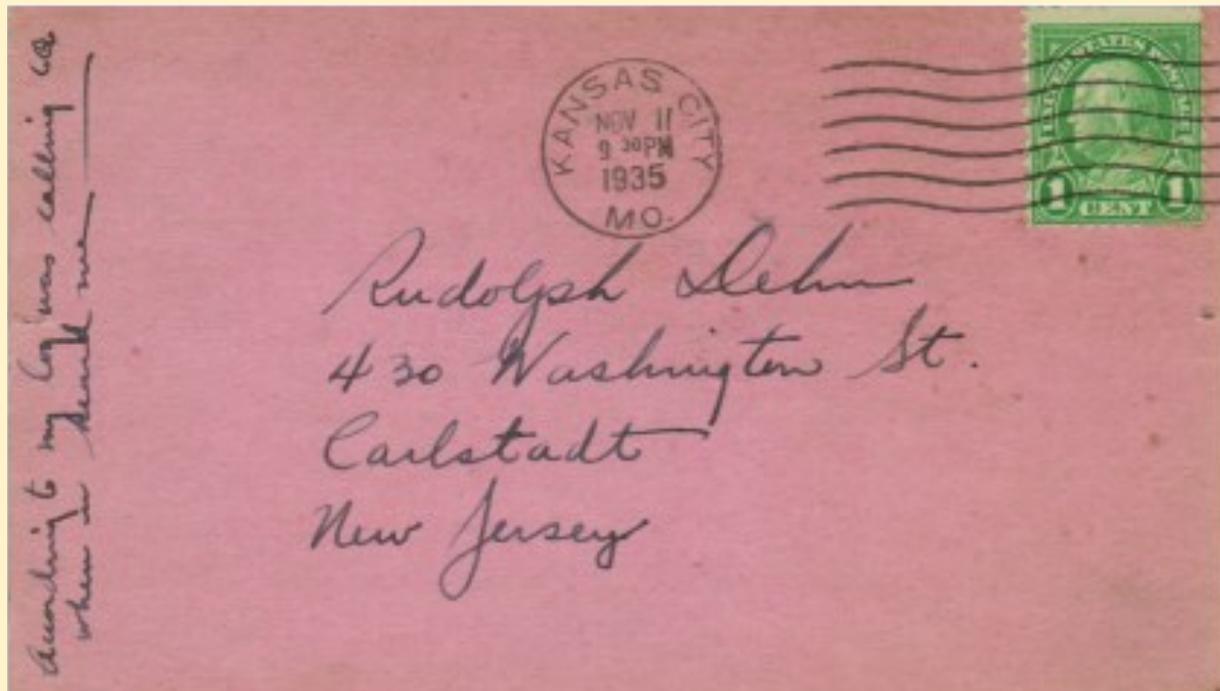
Transmitter *KTAZ 261 A FINAL 300 WATTS*

Receiver *Super*

Antenna *S.W. F. HERTZ*

Remarks *Main trans apt om - 732 work in summertime -  
 How abt some brass pounding? 732 Unzip -*

OM DO U QSL? Let's hope so. TNX 73 OP. F. H. Hooper, Jr.



“According to my log was calling CQ when he heard me.”

D.R.R.C. A.R.R.L.

**ROBERT W. FORD SALES & SERVICE**  
 14585 MICHIGAN AVE.      DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

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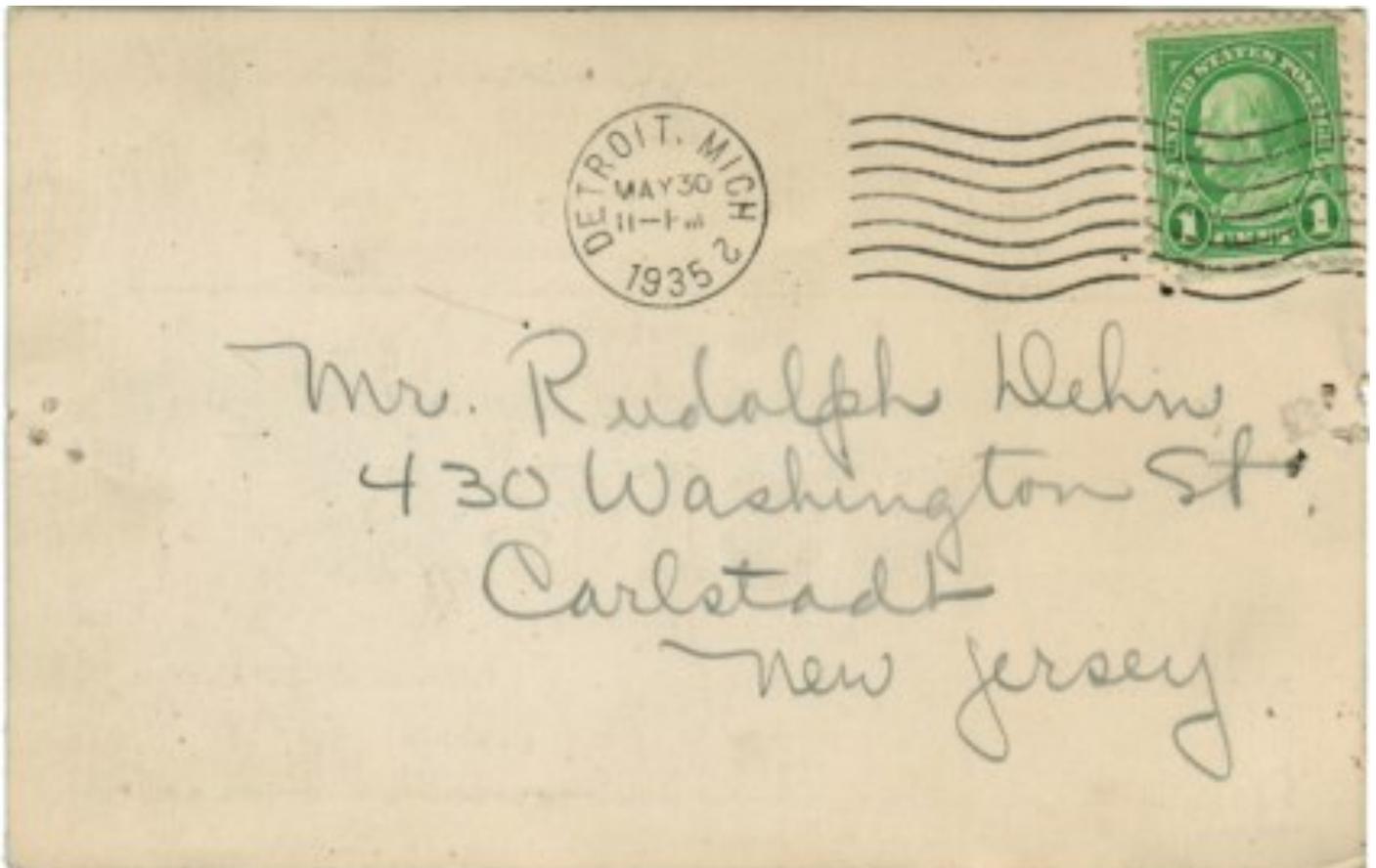
THE HOME OF  
*The Goodfellowship Radio Club*

**OBS      W8IGA      OPS**

ACKNOWLEDGING QSO

Three Transmitters National "FBXA" Receiver

*Norve* *Smitty*

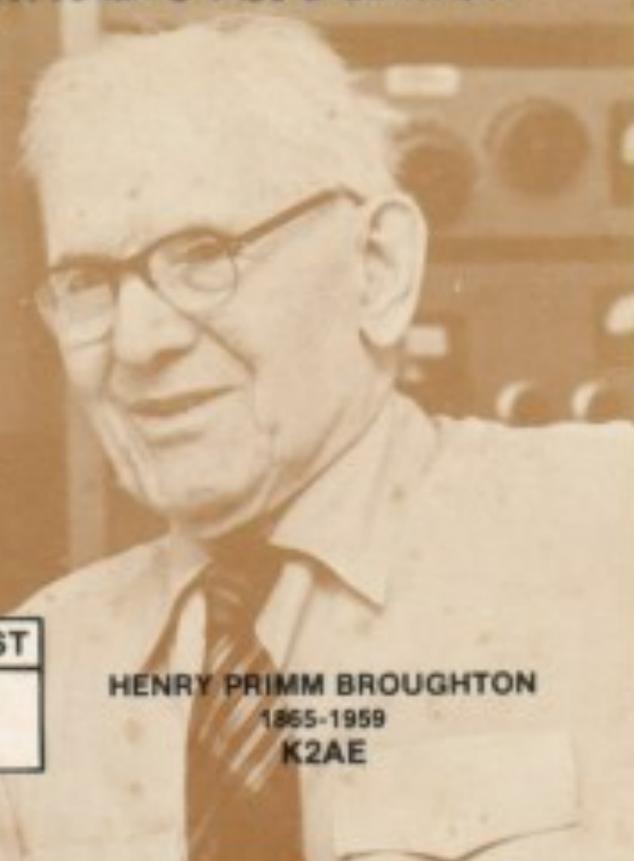


MEMBER: SCHENECTADY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

# W2IR

Henry Primm Broughton  
Memorial Station

Located in the  
Schenectady Museum  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308  
(Schenectady County)



| STATION | DATE | TIME | MHZ | MODE | RST |
|---------|------|------|-----|------|-----|
|         |      |      |     |      |     |

HENRY PRIMM BROUGHTON  
1865-1959  
K2AE



2.27.87

BROUGHTON MEMORIAL AWARD

Known as the Dean of Amateur Radio, Henry Primm Broughton was the original holder of K2AE — now assigned to the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association. Each year, SARA presents the Broughton Memorial Award to a deserving member — "for exemplary service to amateur radio, to the public and to SARA."

To:

W2JVF  
de

W2IR

Comments: Ur Notes (2.24.87)

r excellent. Tnx agn.  
Hope u will keep it  
up + write the px book  
too! More anon if u  
wish. -73 Bill

## K2AE Repeater 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 97.113)
4. Commercial or business use is not 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 the wintertime.)
6. If someone calls "break", operators should 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, and 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: [w2sfd@arrl.net](mailto:w2sfd@arrl.net).
9. In the event of an emergency (SKYWARN, flooding, extreme weather conditions, or other emergencies) control operators will turn the repeater on if it is down.

## Schenectady County Emergency Net

Schenectady County ARES members act as Net Control Stations for the Schenectady County Emergency Net (SCEN) on Sunday afternoons. Emergency Coordinator: James MacMurray - N2UZQ  
The nets are open to all amateurs. ARES or RACES membership is not required to participate. The purpose of the nets is for training, passing any traffic that you might have, and any announcements of general interest.

| 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 | 52.525    | FM Simplex    |
| 3rd Sunday   | 2:00 PM | 146.435   | FM Simplex    |
| 4th Sunday   | 2:00 PM | 28.350    | USB           |
| 5th Sunday   | 2:00 PM | TBA       | TBA           |

## SARA Board of Directors/Officers

### President

J.R. Hotaling - N2PEQ

Email: [n2peq2002@gmail.com](mailto:n2peq2002@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 526-5131

### Vice President

Jim Silva - KC2ZVK

Email: [jsilva.NY@gmail.com](mailto:jsilva.NY@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 877-8032

### Secretary

James Stewart - K2PK

Email: [k2pk@arrl.net](mailto:k2pk@arrl.net)

Phone: (518) 399-1867

### Treasurer

Tim Long - W2UI

Email: [tlong1@earthlink.net](mailto:tlong1@earthlink.net)

Phone: (518) 399-7454

### Director

Bob Saltzman - WB2ARK

Email: [saltzman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:saltzman@nycap.rr.com)

Phone: (518) 370-2222

### Director

Paul Siemers - WY2F

Email: [psiemer2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:psiemer2@nycap.rr.com)

Phone: (518) 371-0215

### Director

James MacMurray - N2UZQ

Email: [n2uzq@arrl.net](mailto:n2uzq@arrl.net)

Phone: (518) 369-2298

### Director

Skip Evans - W2YJL

Email: [ShortSkip86@gmail.com](mailto:ShortSkip86@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 399-5538

## SARA Standing Committees

### SARA Newsletter

Jim Silva - KC2ZVK

Email: [JSilva.NY@gmail.com](mailto:JSilva.NY@gmail.com)

Phone: (518) 877-8032

### Elmer and Antenna Party

Tim Long - W2UI

Email: [tlong1@earthlink.net](mailto:tlong1@earthlink.net)

Phone: (518) 399-7454

### K2AE Repeater Trustee

George Burns - W2SFD

Email: [w2sfd@arrl.net](mailto:w2sfd@arrl.net)

### Repeater

Scott Krone - N2YCA

Email: [n2yca@nycap.rr.com](mailto:n2yca@nycap.rr.com)

Phone: (518) 273-1610

### RFI/TVI

Rudy Dehn - W2JVF

Email: [w2jvf@juno.com](mailto:w2jvf@juno.com)

Phone: (518) 372-6139

### Public Service Events

Schenectady County ARES

James MacMurray - N2UZQ

Email: [n2uzq@arrl.net](mailto:n2uzq@arrl.net)

Phone: (518) 369-2298

### Volunteer Examiner Team

Vacant - please consider volunteering for this position

### FCC Exam Registration

Phone: (518) 604-4128



# Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Membership Application

(Please print legibly)

- New member (some eligibility requirements apply)
- Renewing member
- Donation to the Repeater Fund. Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Class:

- Full: \$20.00 per year dues
- New member initiation: \$5.00 one-time fee in addition to full dues  
(The initiation fee is applied to the Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Fund)
- Spousal: \$5.00 per year dues. Name or call sign of full member: \_\_\_\_\_
- Student (K-12 and full-time undergraduate college): \$5.00 per year dues

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

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

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(The SARA Newsletter will be distributed via email, unless otherwise specifically requested.)

Member of:  ARRL  ARES  RACES  NTS \_\_\_\_\_ another club (specify)

Please use a separate form for each SARA membership application at your address.

Make checks payable to: **Schenectady Amateur Radio Association**

Mail this completed form and your check to:

**Schenectady Amateur Radio Association**

**PO Box 449**

**Schenectady, NY 12301-0449**

You may also submit this form and your membership dues to the treasurer at any SARA meeting.