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# SARA NEWS

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## Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

### Message from the President

In early July I had hoped that by September the club would be able to meet in person again. Since the Delta variant of COVID had not yet fully manifested itself, this desire seemed achievable. I asked Tim Long and Jim Silva to help determine the desired criteria for the meeting venue and to look for facilities that met these criteria. We wanted to find a meeting venue that was available at low or no cost to the club, had modern meeting facilities, was available on Monday nights, was handicap accessible, and was preferably in Schenectady County. We inquired at 2 churches and 2 fire departments.

In early August we received permission from the Alplaus Board of Fire Commissioners to use their facilities for our in-person general meetings and board meetings. We asked for the first Monday of each month, but that slot had already been claimed by another organization. The second Monday is taken by the fire department Board of Commissioners. The third Monday of each month was available. Therefore, the SARA general meetings will be held on the **third Monday of each month**. Please note this on your calendars. The board meetings will be on the second Wednesday of each month, which is what we have been doing during the past year.

The Alplaus facility has been recently remodeled, and has excellent internet, wi-fi, and audio-visual capability. It is also available at no cost, although their web site asks that we make a donation of our choosing to cover utility costs. We are able to gain access to the facility using a fob that they provided.

For the foreseeable future, club meetings will be "hybrid"--people are free to attend in person at the firehouse or attend via Zoom on their computers. This approach also gives us more flexibility to arrange for out-of-the-area speakers. Remote speakers will give their presentations via Zoom (as we did last year). The presentations will be projected at the fire house for those who attend in person. When we have In-person speakers, we will "broadcast" their presentations via Zoom.

Since we started this process of finding a new meeting venue, the Delta variant of Covid has become dominant, and the wisdom of meeting in person is unclear. Based on guidance from the Alplaus Board of Fire Commissioners, masks are currently required for all people attending firehouse meetings.

'73, Paul WY2F

# The September SARA meeting will be held at the **Alplaus Fire Station** \* and will also be available via Zoom.

Speaker: Ria Jairam, N2RJ

Topics: ARRL Update and Amateur Radio In Trinidad and Tobago

Date: Monday, September 20

Time: 7:00—8:30 PM (in person and via Zoom)

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

## **Abstract:** AMATEUR RADIO IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago is a two-island nation that comprises the most southerly isles of the tropical Caribbean. It shares a rich history with European, Syrian, Lebanese, Chinese, African, and Indian ancestry. Amateur radio is a vibrant, yet niche activity in the country with heavy emphasis on emergency and disaster preparedness. This talk will describe about all aspects of amateur radio in Trinidad and Tobago, local hams and their activities, local customs, things to do and see, and a wrap-up of the recent 59th Independence Day radio celebrations including a special event station, 9Y59IND.

Ria Jairam, N2RJ, has been continuously licensed since 1997, having first obtained her amateur radio license in 1997 in her native Trinidad and Tobago. Ria has participated in many aspects of amateur radio including DXing, contesting, weak signal, FM simplex and repeater work, public service and emergency communications, home-brew and kit building. Ria was elected to serve as the ARRL's Hudson Division Director since 2019 and also serves as district 2 chair of YLRL (Young Ladies Radio League). She is a member of several clubs including SCARC, NJDXA, NPARC and FLARC. She also runs a YouTube channel, "Ria's Shack ham radio" where she talks about various educational topics. Professionally she does consulting for renewable energy startups, video and audio production for worship, and large scale IT automation for the financial services industry.

\* Note: The meeting location is 309 Alplaus Ave, Alplaus, NY, and the building is at the corner of Alplaus Avenue and Bruce Drive. Please park in the paved lot adjacent to this building. Do not park in the restricted area in front of the building that houses the fire trucks. We will meet in the Multipurpose Room (entrance is on the North side of this building).

**SARA Annual Meeting June 7, 2021**

**Note: This meeting was conducted over the Internet via Zoom.**

**Present:** 20 members and 2 visitors in attendance including 2020-2021 officers and directors

- \*JR Hotaling N2PEQ, President
- \*Jim Silva KC2ZVK, Vice President
- \*Jim Stewart K2PK Secretary
- \*Tim Long, W2UI, Treasurer
- \*Skip Evans W2YJL, Director
- \*James MacMurray, N2UZQ, Director
- \*Bob Saltzman WB2ARK, Director
- \*Terry Saunders N1KIN, Director

\* In attendance at the annual meeting.

**Meeting opened** by J. R. President Hotaling at 7:14 PM.

**Treasurer's Report** for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was presented by Treasurer Tim Long with explanation of details of transactions over the year. It was moved (Jim Silva), seconded (Terry Saunders), and carried to approve the Treasurer's report. Tim reported on the possibility of changing the club's insurance to the ARRL group policy at a significantly lower annual price. Tim will collect as much information as he can, let the new president know about this matter, and call a special meeting of the board to make a decision.

**Election of Officers and Directors:** Tim Long presented names in nomination on behalf of the nominating committee of the board. Moved (Tim Long), seconded (James Mac Murray), and carried to close the nominations and have the secretary cast a single unanimous ballot for the following slate for the 2021-2022 fiscal year:

- Paul Siemers WY2F President
- Jim Silva KC2ZVK Vice President
- Jim Stewart K2PK Secretary
- Tim Long W2UI Treasurer
- Terry Saunders N1KIN Director
- Bob Saltzman WB2ARK Director
- J. R. Hotaling N2PEQ Director
- Skip Evans W2YJL Director

James MacMurray reported that the SMARA board has approved him to be the continuing liaison between SMARA and SARA.

**Secretary's Report:** It was moved (Tim Long), seconded (Mark WB2SMK) and carried to approve the minutes of the May board meeting as published in SARA News and to refer the minutes of this meeting to the board for approval at its September meeting.

**New Business:** Tim Long reported on a new member: Mark Kedik K2MMK. It was moved (Bob Saltzman), seconded (James MacMurray) to receive Mark as a member of SARA. Jim Stewart introduced Dean Poeth III (KD2WLO) as a newly licensed amateur attending for the first time. Dean was welcomed as a new member of SARA.

Following discussion about possibly meeting by Zoom in July and August, J. R. Hotaling agreed to set up a Zoom meeting for July 12 to the members to informally get together .

Bob Saltzman thanked J. R. Hotaling for his service as SARA President on behalf of the board and membership. J. R. Hotaling thanked James MacMurray for his contributions to SARA and its board.

**Field Day:** James MacMurray and Tim Long gave a presentation on the 2021 Broughton Field Day Group operation. The operation will be conducted in the same manner as in 2020.

**Meeting Adjourned** 9:07 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

## Program Schedule

Date	Speaker	Call Sign	Topic
September 20, 2021	Ria Jairam	N2RJ	ARRL Update and Ham Radio in Trinidad and Tobago
October 28, 2021	Bryan Jackson	W2RBJ	Impact of Radio During the Titanic Disaster
November 15, 2021	Neil Goldstein	W2NDG	Today's Kit Industry: Build Your own Radios!
December 20, 2021	Social Event or Speaker		
January 17, 2022	Lauren Libby	W0LD	Trans World Radio: A Million Watts of RF !!
February 21, 2022	Carl Luetzelschwab	K9LA	Sunspot Cycle 25 and HF Propagation
March 21, 2022	Dom Mallozzi	N1DM	An Introduction to Satellites for the Radio Amateur
April 18, 2022	Open		
May 16, 2022	Open		
June 20, 2022	Tim Long & James MacMurray	W2UI, N2UZQ	Elections and Field Day Planning

## Public Service Events

Date	Event	Contact
October 30 & 31, 2021	Pumpkin Patrol	James MacMurray, N2UZQ <a href="mailto:n2uzq@arrl.net">n2uzq@arrl.net</a>
November, 2021	Schenectady Holiday Parade	James MacMurray, N2UZQ <a href="mailto:n2uzq@arrl.net">n2uzq@arrl.net</a>

## 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

Paul Siemers - WY2F

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

Phone: (518) 371-0215

### 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

### Directors

Skip Evans - W2YJL

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

Phone: (518) 399-5538

JR Hotaling - N2PEQ

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

Phone: (518) 526-5131

Bob Saltzman - WB2ARK

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

Phone: (518) 370-2222

Terry Saunders - N1KIN

Email: [Terry.Saunders@twc.com](mailto:Terry.Saunders@twc.com)

Phone: (207) 432-2509

## 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

Vacant—please consider volunteering for this position

### 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.