
SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

Message from the President:

We had our second hybrid meeting at the Alplaus Firehouse last month. For the first time since March 2019, we were able to host our speaker (Bryan Jackson W2RBJ) in person. The Zoom connection worked well; the audio problem discovered during the September meeting was solved by utilizing a directional microphone.

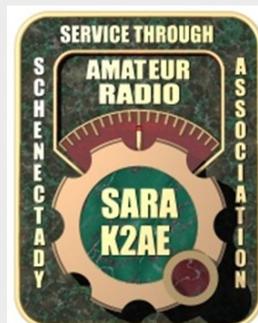
The SARA Board has decided to reinstate our Holiday gathering at United Buffet for the December meeting. Please note that the December meeting will be on **Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM**. We chose that date so that our meeting is not too close to the Christmas or Thanksgiving holidays (United Buffet is now closed on Mondays). We will meet in the back room. The cost for the meal, drink, tax, and tip is \$17.94 for Seniors and \$19.66 for non-seniors. Masks are required by United Buffet while browsing the serving tables, but not required when eating.

Years ago, the SARA Board invested a portion of the Broughton fund and Club funds at Janney Montgomery & Scott. Both investments have done well. At the October Board meeting we decided that the Broughton fund had grown to point where it is now self-sustaining, thus allowing us to reinstate the Broughton Award. Jim Stewart has agreed to chair the Broughton Award Committee. Please nominate candidates for this year's award to Jim.

At the end of this newsletter, Bob Saltzman describes how we were able to purchase a much-needed trailer for our Field Day equipment.

I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving!!

'73, Paul WY2F



The November SARA meeting will be held at the **Alplaus Fire Station**^{*} and will also be available via Zoom.

Speaker: Neil Goldstein, W2NDG

Topic: Today's Kit Industry: Build Your Own Radios!

Date: Monday, November 15

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

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

Abstract: Neil will take us on a tour of the radio kit market, and present some tips and tricks for acquiring and building old and new kits.

About Our Speaker: Neil Goldstein, W2NDG, has been tinkering with radios since the early seventies when he used to hang out in his uncle's ham shack in CT (W1PVC sk). These days, he can be found in the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains with a QRP radio, or sitting at his workbench amidst a cloud of solder smoke.

After first getting licensed in 2011 as KD2APZ, he started looking for ways to merge his two hobbies: computers and radio. Now, a holder of an Extra Class license, he experiments with SDR, rig control, digital modes, and still has a well-used soldering iron. Neil is active in the OMARC, and QSY Society clubs, has written for AmateurRadio.com as well as The Spectrum Monitor, and frequently presents at various club meetings on computer-related subjects.

Neil maintains radiokitguide.com, the complete list of radio kit sources on the Internet.

* 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 Board Meeting October 13, 2021**Present:**

Paul Siemers, WY2F President
 Jim Silva KC2ZVK, Vice President
 Jim Stewart K2PK, Secretary (by Zoom)
 Tim Long W2UI, Treasurer
 Skip Evans W2YJL, Board Member
 Bob Saltzman WB2ARK, Board Member (by Zoom)
 Terry Saunders N1KIN, Board Member
 J. R. Hotaling N2PEQ, Board Member

Call to Order: Meeting opened by President Paul Siemers at 7:02 PM.

Secretary Meeting Notes: The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2021 as published in SARA News.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tim Long discussed the treasurer's report handed out at the meeting and screen-shared to the Zoom participants. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Programs: Jim Silva reviewed the upcoming speaker list as published in the October SARA News. Paul Siemers reported on his "test" of United Buffet as a possibility for a December SARA dinner gathering. It was agreed to hold the December meeting at the United Buffet at 6:00 PM on Monday December 6 (the old meeting night of the first Monday of the month.)

SARA Web Site: Bob Saltzman reported that John Comanzo is willing to continue handling the SARA Web Site. Bob plans to eliminate obsolete material from the Web Site.

Public Service Events: Presently scheduled future events are in the October SARA News.

Hybrid Meeting Format: The board discussed how the September meeting worked in the hybrid in-person plus Zoom format. For the September meeting the speaker attended through the Zoom connection. The sound from people at the fire house trying to ask questions of the speaker needed improvement because the people

attending via Zoom could not hear most of them. The fire house audience needs to be able to ask questions and to be better connected to a speaker who is giving a presentation via Zoom. Zoom sound is working well for those attending this board meeting in person and remotely, although the in person meeting is being held in a smaller room than the general meeting. Some possible improvements in the sound were discussed for the membership meetings. Bob Saltzman and Terry Saunders will work on what can be done for future meetings. Paul Siemers reported on the September meeting and the need for masks in meetings in the fire house because of local government regulations.

Broughton Award: Terry Saunders has obtained quotations for Broughton medallions and pins. It was moved, seconded, and carried to authorize Terry to purchase 25 sets of medallions and pins for a cost not to exceed \$5,000. (Secretary's Note: The amount in the Broughton Fund is sufficient for the Broughton Award to be financially self sustaining.) Paul Siemers appointed Jim Stewart to chair the Broughton Committee and reinstate the Broughton Award. (Secretary's Note: After the meeting Jim asked Paul Siemers and Tim Long to also serve on the Broughton Committee and both accepted.)

New Business:

It was moved, seconded, and carried to donate \$50 to the Alplaus Fire Company in recognition of their kindness in letting us use the room for September through November of 2021. The request for use of the room for 2022 needs to be submitted to the fire commissioners in December.

Jim Silva reported on equipment from an estate in Lansingburg that has been made available to SARA. He and Skip Evans will follow up.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Submitted by Jim Stewart K2PK, Secretary

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 2, 2021 6:00 PM	Holiday Dinner		Dinner at the United Buffet Restaurant
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	Tom Perera,	W1TP	Spy Radio Operations and CIA Bugs
May 16, 2022	Open		
June 20, 2022	Tim Long & James MacMurray	W2UI, N2UZQ	Elections and Field Day Planning

Public Service Events

Date	Event	Contact
November 20, 2021	Schenectady Holiday Parade	James MacMurray, N2UZQ n2uzq@arrl.net

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association emergency communications trailer

As you are probably aware, the aging SARA emergency communications trailer has fallen into disrepair in recent years – to the point of becoming unsafe.

A few years ago the Board of Directors started an effort to determine the best course of action to resolve this matter.

A committee was created to research an appropriate and affordable replacement trailer, and more importantly to identify a method by which to pay for it.

With limited financial resources, several approaches for fundraising were considered, and some were actually implemented.

One method was to hold a raffle. The raffle structure and tickets were designed, and tickets ready to be printed and made available for sale. However during the process of applying for not-for-profit status, we learned that there are constraints associated with such games of chance. That, along with restrictions from the venue where we held our meetings, caused us to abandon this activity.

Donations were also solicited via the on-line GoFundMe service. A total of \$225 was received, for which we are most grateful.

Over the past few years SARA's financial resources unexpectedly improved. After devising trailer requirements, the committee started to talk with dealers about a possible purchase.

During this process, and much to our surprise and delight, a person stepped up and offered to pay the complete price (over \$3000) of a new trailer. This was in fact transacted and now SARA has a brand new safe trailer that will serve the club's needs for many years to come.

This donor has chosen to remain anonymous, and is known only to the couple of committee members who facilitated the purchase – not even the entire Board of Directors.

We are deeply indebted to this extremely generous benefactor, to whom we offer sincere gratitude and thanks.

The money that was donated to the GoFundMe trailer fund has been earmarked for the directly related expenses of registering and insuring the trailer, configuring and constructing the interior shelving, and creating the external lettering. We sincerely thank the GoFundMe donors for their contributions.

Although all Board of Directors activities associated with the trailer acquisition have been documented in the monthly meeting minutes, which are published in the SARA Newsletter, we thought that this summary might be helpful.

If you have any questions about the trailer acquisition, please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

Bob Saltzman, for the SARA Board of Directors

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.
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
Phone: (518) 371-0215

Vice President

Jim Silva - WA2JMS
Phone: (518) 877-8032

Secretary

James Stewart - K2PK
Phone: (518) 399-1867

Treasurer

Tim Long - W2UI
Phone: (518) 399-7454

Directors

Skip Evans - W2YJL
Phone: (518) 399-5538

JR Hotaling - N2PEQ
Phone: (518) 526-5131

Bob Saltzman - WB2ARK
Phone: (518) 370-2222

Terry Saunders - N1KIN

SARA Standing Committees

SARA Newsletter

Jim Silva - KC2ZVK
Phone: (518) 877-8032

Elmer and Antenna Party

Tim Long - W2UI
Phone: (518) 399-7454

K2AE Repeater Trustee

George Burns - W2SFD

Repeater

Scott Krone - N2YCA
Phone: (518) 273-1610

RFI/TVI

Vacant—please consider volunteering for this position

Public Service Events

Schenectady County ARES
James MacMurray - N2UZQ
Phone: (518) 369-2298

Volunteer Examiner Team

Vacant - please consider volunteering for this position

FCC Exam Registration

Phone: (518) 604-4128

Please see www.qrz.com for email addresses.



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.