

SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

Message from the President:

The Omicron variant of the Corona Virus Pandemic that has been ravaging the Capital District over the past two months seems to finally be abating based on most recent statistics. Based on an abundance of caution I have decided to **not hold in-person Board or Club Meetings** for the month of February. As such we will convene a Zoom-only meeting this coming Monday (February 21), and not meet at the Alplaus Firehouse. Assuming conditions continue to improve, we expect that in March we will return to the hybrid meeting model we adopted in September. Each of you can decide to attend meetings via Zoom or in person at the Alplaus Fire Department. A week ago, Jim Silva learned that the Alplaus Fire Commissioners gave us permission to continue using their facility for all of 2022.

At our Board meeting this past Wednesday (February 9), Jim Silva agreed to act as chairperson of the SARA Election Committee. Jim Stewart and Tim Long will serve on the committee with him. If any of you wish to serve on the SARA Board of Directors for the SARA 2022-2023 fiscal year, please contact one of those 3 people. That committee will submit a slate of candidates to the Club for consideration at the June meeting.

Jim Stewart, Tim Long, and myself continue to welcome nominations for the Broughton Award for 2022. Nominations will be accepted until April 1, 2022.

'73,
Paul, WY2F



The February SARA meeting will be held via Zoom.

Topic: Sunspot Cycle 25 and HF Propagation

Speaker: Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

Date: Monday, February 21, 2022

Time: 7:00—8:30 PM (Zoom link will be sent out separately prior to the meeting)

Abstract: Carl K9LA will give a brief update on the progress of the new Solar Cycle 25 and what to expect propagation-wise in the next several years. He will then discuss how space weather affects MF/HF/VHF propagation. Finally, he will review disturbances to propagation and offer possible mitigation for these disturbances.

About our speaker: Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA started his radio career as a short wave listener in the late 1950s, and was “licensed” as WPE9BQH with Popular Electronics. He received his Novice license (WN9AVT) in October 1961, and selected K9LA in 1977. Carl is an electrical engineering graduate of Purdue University and was an RF design engineer for Motorola and Magnavox/Raytheon until his retirement in 2013. Carl enjoys propagation research, DXing (he’s at the Top of the Honor Roll), contesting (he was NCJ Editor from 2002-2007), experimenting with antennas and restoring/using vintage equipment.

He and his wife Vicky AE9YL enjoy traveling, which has included DXpeditions to Syria (YK9A in February 2001), to Market Reef (OJ0/AE9YL and OJ0/K9LA in July 2002) and numerous trips to ZF (Vicky is ZF2YL and Carl is ZF2LA). He has received the Bill Orr W6SAI Technical Writing Award, the YASME Foundation Excellence Award and the Indiana Radio Club Council Technical Excellence Award. He has written monthly propagation columns for WorldRadio and NCJ, and has written solar and propagation articles for many Amateur Radio publications. He was the lead author in the recent update of “The CQ Shortwave Propagation Handbook – 4th Edition”.

Carl was the Vice Director of the ARRL Central Division from 2017-2021. He now serves as the Director of the Central Division, and is on several committees.

SARA Virtual Board Meeting January 12, 2022**Present:**

Paul Siemers WY2F	President
Jim Silva WA2JMS	Vice President
Jim Stewart K2PK	Secretary
Tim Long W2UI	Treasurer
Skip Evans W2YJL	Board Member
J. R. Hotaling N2PEQ	Board Member
Terry Saunders N1KIN	Board Member
Bob Saltzman WB2ARK	Board Member

Visitors: Larry Zuravin KB2WZT
George Burns W2SFD

Meeting opened by President Paul Siemers at 7:01 PM.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tim Long discussed the treasurer's report circulated by email and presented by screen sharing. Tim reported that future income from equipment sales will be placed in the gifts category rather than the trailer fund category. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Programs: Jim Silva reported that the previously reported scheduled programs are still intact. J. R. Hotaling reported that John Fritze K2QY is scheduled for May.

Repeater: Larry Zuravin reported the 440 MHz repeater has been fixed and is back on the air.

SARA Web Site: Bob Saltzman reported that he has not been working on it because of apparent lack of peoples' interest except for things like updating the list of officers. John Comanzo is doing the monthly updates that he receives from Jim Silva.

Public Service Events: No report.

Trailer Outfitting: Nothing new to report.

Hybrid Meeting Format: Paul Siemers reported that the hybrid meeting discussion is not necessary to report because meetings will be via Zoom on a month-to-month basis until further notice.

Broughton Award: Jim Stewart reported that he has received one new nomination for the award.

New Business: Paul Siemers reported on a request for permission to reprint an article from the February 2002 issue of SARA News. It was moved, seconded and carried to grant permission for reuse of the article subject to the following provisos: proper attribution to SARA and reprinting exactly as written with no changes editorial or otherwise. Bob Saltzman suggested that the recipient be requested to state exactly where it is to be published and send us a copy of how it is going to appear so we can grant final approval. It was moved, seconded, and carried to grant permission with the caveats as discussed.

Paul Siemers brought up the problem of interference to the K2AE 2 meter repeater from the repeater in Valhalla, NY, which transmits on the K2AE input frequency. Board members discussed this problem at length and also considered other issues that need addressing such as the need to bring the repeater into compliance with control requirements and what repeater control functions need to be available. Board members agreed to authorize George Burns to proceed to prepare a list of what we need and want the repeater controller to do. He is to forward this list to Larry Zuravin, who will forward it to Barry with our thanks for his and Scott's work and ask them to get going on the repeater update as soon as possible.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 PM.

SARA Virtual Board Meeting February 9, 2022**Present:**

Paul Siemers WY2F	President
Jim Silva WA2JMS	Vice President
Jim Stewart K2PK	Secretary
Tim Long W2UI	Treasurer
Skip Evans W2YJL	Board Member
J. R. Hotaling N2PEQ	Board Member
Terry Saunders N1KIN	Board Member
Bob Saltzman WB2ARK	Board Member

Meeting opened by President Paul Siemers at 7:03 PM.

Secretary Meeting Notes: The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2022 as published in SARA News.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tim Long discussed the treasurer's report circulated by email and presented by screen sharing. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Programs: Jim Silva reported that SARA has been granted permission to use the Alplaus Fire Department building for board and general meetings for the calendar year 2022. Programs with the speakers by video are set for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Repeater: Paul Siemers reported for Larry Zuravin that most of the changes have been made to the new repeater (PL tone, voice identification and other features requested by the board).

SARA Web Site: Nothing new to report.

Public Service Events: J. R. Hotaling reported that there is nothing new to report. Niska Day would be the next event if it is held this year.

Trailer Outfitting: Nothing new to report.

Hybrid Meeting Format: Following discussion, Paul Siemers reported that until further notice hybrid meetings will resume in March unless conditions change. People may attend either in person at Alplaus Fire House

or via Zoom. Paul plans to not continue this as an agenda item for future board meetings.

Broughton Award: Paul Siemers reported having received another nomination. Jim Stewart proposed setting a cut off date for nominations. Following discussion, the board agreed to set April 1 as the closing date for a candidate to receive the award to be nominated.

Reprint February 2002 SARA News article: Paul Siemers reported having received a copy of the reprint and it complied with all the conditions that the board attached to it.

New Business:

Election Committee Chair Person: Paul Siemers reported that Jim Silva has agreed to chair the Nominations Committee. Jim Stewart and Tim Long have agreed to serve.

EGARA: Jim Silva and J. R. Hotaling reported that the East Greenbush ARA and SMARA are putting together an on the air event February 19 and 20 using the call W7Y to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast from WGY. Information will be circulated via the groups.io mailing list.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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:
December 2, 2021	Holiday Dinner		Dinner at the United Buffet

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	John Fritze	K2QY	ARRL and Hudson Section Update
June 20, 2022	Tim Long & James MacMurray	W2UI, N2UZQ	Elections and Field Day Planning

Broughton Award Nominations Reminder:

Please submit nominations for the Broughton Award to Jim Stewart , Tim Long, or Paul Siemers or by April 1, 2022.

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

Email: psiemer2@nycap.rr.com

Phone: (518) 371-0215

Vice President

Jim Silva - WA2JMS (new call)

Email: jsilva.NY@gmail.com

Phone: (518) 877-8032

Secretary

James Stewart - K2PK

Email: k2pk@arrl.net

Phone: (518) 399-1867

Treasurer

Tim Long - W2UI

Email: tlong1@earthlink.net

Phone: (518) 399-7454

Directors

Skip Evans - W2YJL

Email: ShortSkip86@gmail.com

Phone: (518) 399-5538

JR Hotaling - N2PEQ

Email: n2peq2002@gmail.com

Phone: (518) 526-5131

Bob Saltzman - WB2ARK

Email: saltzman@nycap.rr.com

Phone: (518) 370-2222

Terry Saunders - N1KIN

(Please see www.qrz.com for contact information.)

SARA Standing Committees

SARA Newsletter

Jim Silva - WA2JMS

Email: JSilva.NY@gmail.com

Phone: (518) 877-8032

Elmer and Antenna Party

Tim Long - W2UI

Email: tlong1@earthlink.net

Phone: (518) 399-7454

K2AE Repeater Trustee

George Burns - W2SFD

Email: w2sfd@arrl.net

Repeater

Scott Krone - N2YCA

Email: 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

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 in-person SARA meeting.