

# SARA NEWS

## Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

### Message from the President:

As a way to usher in the new year, why not try the ***Amateur Exam Study Buddy***, an interactive web-based program with multiple choice questions for Technician, General, and Extra exams? I went through the **technician** practice questions cold and discovered that I am, shall we say, “not up to speed” in my knowledge of the FCC rules regarding amateur radio.

Try it here: <https://study.affirmatech.com/exam/technician2022>

The Broughton award committee consisting of Tim Long, Jim Stewart, and myself is seeking nominations for the 2023 Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Award—please contact any of the committee members with nominations.

One of the perks of being club president is that on occasion you receive email from unexpected places. I recently received an email from Nick Evetts KC2VWR/2E0LUN, a former SARA member now living in the UK, who is interested in setting up a club-to-club HF net with Bedford and District Amateur Radio Club. Anyone interested in following up on this offer should contact Nick at [kc2vwr@gmail.com](mailto:kc2vwr@gmail.com).

Finally, the ARRL is conducting a 2023 year long operating event called Volunteers on the Air (VOTA). As part of this effort, W1AW will be operating portable from all of the states and territories. New York has 2 activations, one starting **Jan 25th** and one starting **May 24th**. These activations will run for 7 days and during that time stations from NY will get on the air as W1AW/2. See <https://w1aw.nyarrl.org/> for details. There are still several 2-hour time slots available.

73, Jim WA2JMS



# The January SARA meeting will be held at the **Alplaus Fire Station**

and will also be available via Webex.

**Speaker:** Barry Feierman, K3EUI

**Topic:** Modulation: Sound Card Digital Modes on HF SSB

**Date:** Monday, January 16

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

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

**Abstract:** Sound card modes: How they look and sound. What can a sound card do that a human voice cannot do in terms of passing information on a radio signal?

Barry will discuss the concept of modulating a 145 MHz RF wave with a 1.5 kHz sound wave. He will transmit a signal first on AM, then on SSB, and finally on FM. Using an **SDRPlay** receiver with a spectrum analyzer set to 145 MHz, he will display the RF spectrum of these signals.

Barry will demonstrate a variety of popular sound card digital modes, including CW, PSK31, RTTY, Olivia, MFSK, and THOR. Using an SSB transmitter, he will share with NY ops who have an 80m SSB radio and antenna what these modes sound like (assuming propagation from Philly to Schenectady on 80m NVIS). He will use the internet sound as a backup. Popular apps like FLDIGI and Winlink use these sounds created in a sound card to produce “modes” that transfer information much faster than is possible with a human voice on a phone link. Rates as fast as thousands of bits per second on HF SSB is possible using modern sound cards (getting beyond the present 300 baud speed limit of one carrier on HF bands in the USA).

**About Our Speaker:** Barry was first licensed KN3EUI in 1958 when he was 13 years old and quickly fell in love with CW and 40 meters. After advancing to General one year later and operating on 10m, he was working the world on HF AM and CW. His rig was a Heathkit DX100, so no SSB modes.

Barry’s professional training is in Astrophysics, having worked and studied at Swarthmore College Sproul Observatory, and then further graduate work at Kitt Peak and the University of Arizona. He also worked summers at the Royal Greenwich Observatory (England) and the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington DC, and then at Flagstaff, Arizona. He spent a sabbatical year and a few summers at Lowell Observatory (Flagstaff, AZ) where he got to have lunch with the man who discovered Pluto at Lowell.

(continued on next page)

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).

## Speaker's Bio, continued:

Barry's teaching career began at Westtown School in West Chester (PA) in 1970, where he taught high school physics, astronomy, and electronics for over forty years. He then spent a year teaching physics at university (West Chester) and Bryn Mawr College.

Barry's interests in ham radio now include the sound card digital modes, the Nano VNA as a test instrument, and modulation methods on HF SSB and VHF FM using the **SDRplay** and **RSP Spectrum software**. He is the net manager of the PaNBEMS net every Sunday morning at 0730 on 3583.0 kHz. He is also active in local county EMCOMM work via ARES/RACES.

Barry is an extra class licensee, and lives in West Chester, PA.

## 2022-2023 Program Schedule

Date	Speaker	Call Sign	Topic
September 19, 2022	Tom Perera	W1TP	The History of Telegraph Keys
October 17, 2022	John Miller	K6MM	Dxpedition to Baker Island (2018)
November 21, 2022	Skip Evans	W2YJL	Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)
November 29, 2022 6:00 PM	Holiday Dinner		Dinner at the United Buffet Restaurant
January 16, 2023	Barry Feierman	K3EUI	Modulation: Sound Card Digital Modes on HF SSB
February 20, 2023	Michael Walker	VA3MW	Software Defined Radio
March 20, 2023	Bob Olsen	WA7WWP	RF Safety
April 17, 2023	Jim Murphy	-	Displays: light interaction and human health/circadian rhythm
May 15, 2023	Dean Poeth II	K8TM	Surface Mount Technology
June 19, 2023	Tim Long & James MacMurray	W2UI, N2UZQ	SARA Elections, Field Day Planning, and Broughton Award Presentation

**SARA Board Meeting December 14, 2022****Hybrid meeting in-person at the Alplaus Fire House and online via Webex.****Present:**

President: Jim Silva, WA2JMS

Board member: John Clement, NM2R (Webex)

Vice President: Skip Evans, W2YJL

Board member: Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK (Webex)

Secretary: Jim Stewart, K2PK (Webex)

Board member: Paul Siemers, WY2F

Treasurer: Tim Long, W2UI

Board member: Dean Poeth, II, K8TM (Webex)

**Meeting opened** by President Jim Silva at 7:08 PM.**Secretary's Report:** It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the board meeting of November 9 circulated to the board by email and published in the November SARA News.**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tim Long presented and discussed the treasurer's report previously circulated to board members by email and shown via screen sharing to those attending remotely. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report. Jim Stewart reported that a new member application has been received from Jim Salvino WB2CXZ. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve him for membership in SARA.**Audio and Video Equipment for Hybrid Meetings:** The new microphone is in possession by Bob Saltzman. Jim Silva will pick it up before the January general meeting.**Public Service Events:** There are no known public service events to be scheduled at this time.**Broughton Scholarship:** Tim Long reported that he has so far been unsuccessful in receiving further input from ARRL regarding the discussion described in the October SARA board meeting**Field Day:** Tim Long reported that there is nothing new to report on setting up N1MM training. He will try again to arrange it with Larry Zuravin. The vinyl material for the lettering and images is ready to apply to the sides of the new trailer and will be put on when the weather is warmer.**Encouraging meeting attendance:** Jim Silva presented and board members discussed some ideas for attracting people to SARA meetings.**Program Committee:** Bob Saltzman reported on arrangements for future meetings. Planned speakers are listed in SARA News. Jim Silva reported on the December dinner meeting at United Buffet.**New Business:** Nothing further discussed.**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:58 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK    Submitted by Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

**SARA Board Meeting January 11, 2023****Hybrid meeting: in-person at the Alplaus Fire House and online via Webex.****Present:**

President: Jim Silva WA2JMS

Board member: John Clement NM2R (Webex)

Vice President: Skip Evans W2YJL (Webex)

Board member: Bob Saltzman WB2ARK (Webex)

Secretary: Jim Stewart K2PK (Webex)

Board member: Paul Siemers WY2F

Treasurer: Tim Long W2UI

Board member: Dean Poeth, II K8TM

**Meeting opened** by President Jim Silva at 7:03 PM.**Secretary's Report:** It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the board meeting of December 14, 2022 previously circulated to the board by email. The December minutes will be published in the January 2023 SARA News (see page 4).**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tim Long presented and discussed the treasurer's report previously circulated to board members by email and shown via screen sharing to those attending remotely. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.**Program Committee:** There is nothing to report that has not been published in SARA News.**Public Service Events:** There are no known public service events to be scheduled at this time.**Broughton Scholarship Criteria:** Tim Long reported on a telephone conversation he had with Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, on a landline concerning criteria changes to make the scholarship more attractive. It was moved, seconded, and carried to change the application criteria as follows:

#1 – Change the scholarship amount from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

#2 – Change the current preference of a student seeking a 4-year degree in engineering sciences to a 4-year degree any field of study.

#3 – Change the requirement to live within 70 miles of Schenectady to living within 100 miles of Schenectady.

**Field Day:** Tim Long reported that the Rexford Firehouse field has been secured for 2023. James MacMurray has started a new Broughton .io group for communication among those involved in FD.**SARA meeting location:** Jim Silva reported that we have been given approval to use the Alplaus firehouse for SARA meetings on all the dates we asked for in 2023. There is an annual \$100 item in the SARA budget for a donation to the Alplaus fire department. It was agreed to send a contribution to the Alplaus fire department in the amount of \$200 together with a cover letter explaining that some previously planned donations had been overlooked.**Encouraging meeting attendance:** Jim Silva reported on his conversation with Larry Grimmer about possible give-aways for SARA meetings.**New Business:**

Jim Silva reported on a note from former SARA member Nick Evetts FRAS, KC2VWR/2EOLUN. It was agreed that this is material for publication in SARA News.

Tim Long reported on communications from ARRL and the NNY Section Manager concerning the ARRL Volunteers on the Air activity. January 25 and May 24 are available operations from New York. This will be published in SARA News.

Bob Saltzman noted that the coming Ham Radio Expo is looking for volunteer speakers.

Paul Siemers noted that it is time to organize a nominating committee for SARA board members and officers for the coming fiscal year and to activate the Broughton Committee for the 2023 award.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:14 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

**For Sale** from K8TM (K8TM@arrl.net):

All proceeds go to charity and SARA.

Knight T-150 CW transmitter. 150 watts, 80-6 meters, built-in VFO. Tested and has output. Includes original manual. Excellent cosmetic condition. \$75

Hewlett Packard 184A oscilloscope. 4 channel solid state analog scope. Works well \$30.

Heathkit DX-40. 75W CW transmitter with original manual. Excellent cosmetic condition. \$40

Heathkit SB-104 solid state transceiver with power supply and speaker. For parts. \$75

Heathkit SB-500 2-meter transverter. Rare. Untested. \$100

Meissner Signal Shifter Model EX. QRP VFO 6 Watt transmitter-exciter, 80-10 meters \$75

**For Sale:** From the estate of William Schultz, KB2IZ (SK)

Kenwood TS-520TS

Kenwood VFO 520-S Remote VFO

Both in good condition

\$200 for both (Funds to benefit SARA)

Email Jim Silva WA2JMS for details (JSilva.ny@gmail.com)

SARA Members—Have an item for sale? Contact Jim WA2JMS with a description, asking price, and contact information, and we'll publish it in SARA News.

## 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 an even 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 prohibits 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 achieves 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

Jim Silva, WA2JMS

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

Phone: (518) 877-8032

### Vice President

Skip Evans, W2YJL

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

Phone: (518) 399-5538

### 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

Dean Poeth II, K8TM

Email: [K8TM@arrl.net](mailto:K8TM@arrl.net)

Phone: 518-377-4041

Paul Siemers, WY2F

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

Phone: (518) 371-0215

Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK

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

Phone: 518-370-2222

John Clement, NM2R

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

Phone: 518-522-4829.

## SARA Standing Committees

### SARA Newsletter

Jim Silva - WA2JMS

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 in-person SARA meeting.