

SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

Message from the President:

Hello to all members. Now that the holidays are over we can look forward to some interesting meetings and presenters. I hope all is well with each of you and look forward to our February meeting.

The Broughton award committee is seeking nominations for the 2024 Henry Primm Broughton Memorial Award—please contact any of the committee members (W2YJL, W2UI, K2PK, and WA2JMS) with nominations prior to April 1, 2024.

There are also a couple Hamfests coming up:

- SCARA: Saturday, March 9 at 50 W. High St. Ballston Spa. Doors open at 7:00 AM.
- W2SZ, RPI Club: March 30, <https://w2sz.org/post/flea-market-2024/>

73 Skip W2YJL



The January SARA meeting will be held at the **Alplaus Fire Station** (and will also be available via Webex).

Speaker: Tim Long, W2UI

Topic: Arduino Projects - Rotator Controller, VFO, Iambic Keyer

Date: Monday, February 19, 2024

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

Tim's Abstract: "I like to contest. I'm not good at it, but I enjoy it just the same. I wanted an interface so that the N1MM Logger could control the Ham III Rotator on my tribander. I found an answer and it was easy.

"I restored a Heath DX-60 transmitter from my Novice days. The DX-60's frequency is determined by plug-in crystals or an external Variable Frequency Oscillator (VFO). I never had one and they are hard to find at a reasonable cost. An oscillator shield controlled by an Arduino Uno provided the almost perfect solution.

"We run Class 6A for Field Day, which includes two stations operating CW. CW operators either bring their own keyer, bug, straight key, or use the iambic keyer that is built into the rig. If you use the built-in iambic keyer, you lose the functionality of CW messages that are programmed into N1MM. Now we disable the rig's built-in keyer and parallel the Arduino keyer output, the computer, and all other keying devices using my homemade octopus. You want to bring your favorite paddle? Just plug it into the Arduino. You want to bring your trusty bug or straight key? Just plug it into the octopus. You want to use the programmed N1MM messages? Just hit the key."

About Our Speaker: Tim got his start in amateur radio in 1961 when he passed his Novice exam given by his scoutmaster WA2FFJ and received call WN2KHQ. That callsign 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 happily retired. Besides ham radio antenna work and Field Day, Tim enjoys golf. Tim holds an Extra Class license and is a Volunteer Examiner.

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).

2023-2024 Program Schedule

Date	Speaker	Call Sign	Topic
September 18, 2023	Anthony Luscre	K8ZT	Am I Getting Out? Simple Ways to Assess the Effectiveness of Your Station
October 16, 2023	Mike Molnar		KDKA and the Pioneers of Broadcasting
November 20, 2023	Manny Shulman	NF2Q	QRP Operation
December 5, 2023 6:00 PM	Holiday Dinner	-	Dinner at the United Buffet Restaurant
January 15, 2024	Ward Silver	NOAX	Grounding and Bonding
February 19, 2024	Tim Long	W2UI	Amateur Radio Projects
March 20, 2024	Courtney Duncan	N5BF	Amateur Radio's Contributions to Mankind's Biggest Projects
April 17, 2024	Anthony Luscre	K8ZT	10 Worst Antennas for Amateur Radio and How You Can Do Better!
May 15, 2024	Mark Wohlschlegel (tentative)	WC3W	CQ Magazine DX Marathon
June 19, 2024	Tim Long & James MacMurray	W2UI, N2UZQ	SARA Elections, Field Day Planning, and Broughton Award Presentation

Have an idea for a **SARA program**? Have a topic that you would like to featured in a SARA program? Contact one of the program committee members: Dean Poeth II, Bob Saltzman, Skip Evans, Jim Stewart, and Jim Silva.

What in the world is this thing? Do you have a ham radio-related item that you need help identifying? Bring it to a SARA meeting and we'll try our best to help!

SARA Board Meeting January 10, 2024

Meeting held online via Webex. A town meeting scheduled for tonight at the Alplaus fire house preempted an in-person meeting there.

Present:

President: Skip Evans W2YJL

Board member: John Clement NM2R

Vice President: Dean Poeth, II K8TM

Board member: Jim Silva WA2JMS

Secretary: Jim Stewart K2PK

Board member: Paul Siemers WY2F

Board member: Bob Saltzman WB2ARK

Absent:

Treasurer Tim Long W2UI

Meeting opened by President Skip Evans at 7:07 PM.

Secretary's Report: Jim Stewart summarized the minutes of the board meeting of November 8, 2023 previously circulated to the board by email and published in the November SARA News. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the SARA board meeting of November 8, 2023.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the treasurer, Bob Saltzman presented and discussed the treasurer's report previously circulated to board members by email. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the treasurer's report. It was moved, seconded, and carried to ratify the email vote to approve the following new member: Scott Van Nostrand N2ZYI.

Programs: Bob Saltzman reported for the Program Committee (Jim Silva, Jim Stewart, Skip Evans, Bob Saltzman, and Dean Poeth II) and described the programs scheduled and planned for the rest of the current fiscal year. Jim Silva spoke about the confusion as to whether Ward Silver would be speaking at the January meeting in person or remote. Ward Silver will be speaking remotely and a message will be sent out to clarify this point.

Public Service Events: None noted at this time.

Venue related matters: Jim Silva reported on Tim Long's contact with the Rexford fire house regarding possibly holding a summer 2024 picnic. Dates are filling up fast, and they would charge \$250 for use of the facility for a picnic.

Repeater: Jim Silva reported that the 440 repeater is back on the air.

Field Day: Bob Saltzman led discussion on safety in the Field Day operation. The topic will be brought up when Tim is present.

Broughton Award: This is the time of year to start the process of choosing the next winner of the Broughton Award. Skip is the chairman of the Broughton Committee this year by virtue of his being the last previous winner.

Officer and Board Nominating Committee: It is time for the President to assemble a committee to develop a slate for election at the Annual Meeting in June.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

SARA Board Meeting February 13, 2024**Hybrid meeting in-person at Alplaus Fire House and online via Webex (indicated by (W)).****Present:**

President: Skip Evans W2YJL

Board member: John Clement NM2R (W)

Vice President: Dean Poeth, II K8TM

Board member: Jim Silva WA2JMS

Secretary: Jim Stewart K2PK (W)

Board member: Paul Siemers WY2F

Treasurer Tim Long W2UI

Board member: Bob Saltzman WB2ARK (W)

Meeting opened by President Skip Evans at 7:13 PM.**Secretary's Report:** Jim Stewart summarized the minutes of the board meeting of January 10, 2024 previously circulated to the board by email and published in the February SARA News. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the SARA board meeting of January 10, 2024 as published.**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tim Long presented and discussed the treasurer's report previously circulated to board members by email. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.**Programs:** Bob Saltzman reported for the Program Committee that programs are filled out for this fiscal year. The committee plans to meet this month to start on next year's programs. The committee plans to follow the same procedure for next year as they did for this year.**Public Service Events:** None noted at this time.**Venue related matters:** Jim Silva reported on arrangements for future use of the fire house.**Repeater:** Board members discussed matters related to whether the 2 meter repeater should be open or have tone access.**Field Day:** Tim Long reported on the safety issue with refueling the generator and recommended a solution. It was moved, seconded, and carried to allot up to \$200 for the materials to connect an auxiliary tank to provide uninterrupted operation for the duration of Field Day. Tim will take care of procurement and assembly. Bob Saltzman brought up the need for mats to cover up power and antenna cables where they cross walkways. Bob Saltzman will get dimensions and see what is available.**Broughton Award:** Paul Siemers asked Jim Silva to put a request for nominations in the SARA News.**Officer and Board Nominating Committee:** This committee needs to be organized and operational by the end of the month.**Old Business:** None**New Business:** Dean Poeth brought up the question of security risks associated with having our email addresses on the web page and in SARA News. The email addresses are presently obscured on the web site and will be obscured in SARA News soon. Bob Saltzman brought up the need to renew the club Webex account in the near future. It was moved, seconded, and carried to allot up to \$150 to renew service. Arrangements will be made at Bob's discretion.**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

SARA Trading Post

Two **AB-577 Towers**
 (New in box)
 \$700 each (or best offer)
 contact Paul Siemers
 (see page 8 for contact information)



Kenwood TM-241A mobile 2M rig \$50

Kenwood MC-60 Microphone (excellent condition) \$60

(These items were donated by the estate of Sid Cramer W2SID, SK)

All proceeds are for the benefit of SARA.

Contact WA2JMS (see page 7 for contact information)

ICOM SM-2 Desk Mic.
 Best offer. Contact
 W2UI



SARA Members—Have an item to sell? Looking for a piece of gear?
 Contact Jim WA2JMS with a description, asking price, and contact
 information, and we'll publish it in SARA News. Photos are welcome.

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[at]arrl[dot]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: Larry Zuravin - KB2WZT. 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 (70 cm)	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

Skip Evans, W2YJL

Email: ShortSkip86[at]gmail[dot]com

Phone: (518) 399-5538

Vice President

Dean Poeth II, K8TM

Email: K8TM[at]arrl[dot]net

Phone: 518-377-4041

Secretary

James Stewart, K2PK

Email: k2pk[at]arrl[dot]net

Phone: (518) 399-1867

Treasurer

Tim Long, W2UI

Email: tlong1[at]earthlink[dot]net

Phone: (518) 399-7454

Directors

Paul Siemers, WY2F

Email: psiemer2[at]nycap[dot]rr[dot]com

Phone: (518) 371-0215

Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK

Email: saltzman[at]nycap[dot]rr[dot]com

Phone: 518-370-2222

John Clement Sr., NM2R

Email: jtcsrvbi[at]gmail[dot]com

Phone: 518-522-4829

Jim Silva, WA2JMS

Email: jsilva[dot]NY[at]gmail[dot]com

Phone: (518) 877-8032

SARA Standing Committees

SARA Newsletter

Jim Silva - WA2JMS

Email: jsilva[dot]NY[at]gmail[dot]com

Phone: (518) 877-8032

Elmer and Antenna Party

Tim Long - W2UI

Email: tlong1[at]earthlink[dot]net

Phone: (518) 399-7454

K2AE Repeater Trustee

George Burns - W2SFD

Email: w2sfd[at]arrl[dot]net

Repeater

Scott Krone - N2YCA

Email: n2yca[at]nycap[dot]rr[dot]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[at]arrl[dot]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.