

SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

Message from the President:

Hello to all. Now that spring has finally arrived, and hopefully no more bad weather, we can begin to think about our outdoor activities like antenna work. Speaking of antennas, I am looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting where our guest speaker will talk about antennas.

The SARA Nominating Committee, co-chaired by Tim Long and Paul Siemers, has identified the following slate of candidates for 2024-2025:

President	Dean Poeth, K8TM
Vice-President	John Clement Sr., NM2R
Secretary	Jim Stewart, K2PK
Treasurer	Tim Long, W2UI
Board Member	Skip Evans, W2YJL
Board Member	Bob Saltzman, WB2ARK
Board Member	Paul Siemers, WY2F
Board Member	Mark Anderson, WB2SMK

73, Skip W2YJL

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.



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

Speaker: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Topic: The 10 Worst Antennas for Amateur Radio and How You Can Do Better!

Date: Monday, April 15, 2024

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

Abstract: Antennas are often one of the biggest obstacles to new hams getting on the air. There is also a lot of hyperbole and false statements about antennas. We will go through the 10 worst antennas and how you can do much better.

About Our Speaker: First licensed in 1981 as KA8NRC, Anthony has been a QRP operator since his first HF QSO. No one told him Novices should not start with a 2-watt QRP rig. After updating to an Extra Class License, he changed his call sign to K8ZT in June 2000. Anthony and his wife Linda, KA8ODP, live near Akron, Ohio.

He is active in a variety of Amateur Radio activities, but his favorite activities are operating and teaching others about the hobby.

Whether contesting, DXing, rag chewing, satellites, HF or VHF/UHF, CW, Phone or Digital, the QRP contacts now top 115,000. First drawn to contesting by his love of working DX, he has consistently finished in the top ten of various major contests and finished first in the World and US in both CQ Worldwide Phone and CW QRP categories multiple times. As a bonus, his QRP DXCC total recently topped the 328 mark, and he has completed 11-band WAS.

Anthony has presented over 500 sessions since the beginning of COVID-19. He has presented multiple times for Contest University, QSO Today Expo, Dayton Hamvention Antenna Forum, ARRL & RSGB Webinars and RATPAC.us. He does a weekly class, "The Joy of Operating," for the Long Island CW Club and is a member of the planning committees for RATPAC and the State QSO Party Challenge.

Now retired, Anthony's work background includes 20 years as a (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).

(our speaker, continued) Medical Technologist in Clinical Microbiology, private computer consulting, and 20 years as a Computer Technology Coordinator and Technology Director (most recently as a Technology Integration Specialist for 30 school districts). Anthony also volunteers as a Trainman on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

Anthony serves as ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator and an Officer in his local radio club. He enjoys sharing his Amateur Radio interests with others by maintaining a website, www.k8zt.com, writing articles for a variety of publications, including CQ Magazine (column “Ham Radio Explorer”), DX Engineering blog “On All Bands” and developing an online course “Introduction to Contesting” for the ARRL Learning Network. Anthony is a 2024 Hamvention® Special Achievement Award winner.

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

SARA Board Meeting April 10, 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 7:02 PM.**Secretary's Report:** Jim Stewart summarized the minutes of the board meeting of March 13, 2024 previously circulated to the board by email and published in the March SARA News. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the SARA board meeting of March 13, 2024.**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. The committee plans to meet on April 25 to finalize a list of possible programs to submit to members.**Public Service Events:** Tim Long reminded the board that we have been asked to provide communications for the Burnt Hills Flag Day Parade June 13. He has a work in progress to designate location where operators are needed and plans to solicit operators.**Report from Newsletter Editor:** Jim Silva reported on equipment sales at the RPI Hamfest (March 30, 2024). He also reminded members that they should list items (with pictures) that they would like to sell in SARA News.**Field Day:** Tim Long reported everything is in good shape for Field Day.**Broughton Award:** Tim Long reported that no new nominations have been received.**Broughton Scholarship:** Tim Long reported that he still has not heard anything from the ARRL.**Officer and Board Nominating Committee:** The board reviewed the status of securing nominees for the various positions.**Report on Communications, Matters from Other Amateur Radio Organizations:** Bob Saltzman reported on the status of SMARA and the museum.**Old Business:** None.**New Business:** None.**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:41 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Jim Stewart K2PK

SARA Trading Post: For sale

Two **AB-577 Towers**
 (New in box)
 \$700 each (or best offer)
 contact Paul Siemers
 (see page 7 for contact information)



Sola constant voltage transformer, harmonic neutralized type CVS.
 120 or 240 volt, 60 Hz, 750 VA. Weighs about 40 pounds. \$75.
 Contact Dean Poeth K8TM (see page 7 for contact information)

EICO 378 Audio Generator
 Good condition \$75.

Contact Jim Silva 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.