

SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

Message from the President:

Hello everyone. It's hard to believe that May is half over and we can finally put away our winter gear, store the snow blower, and plan for Field Day. Bob Saltzman WB2ARK has put together a list of local repeaters, which we plan to put up on K2AE.org. Many thanks to Bob for this list.

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

Our May meeting will be very interesting and I hope you will attend.

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

Speaker: Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W

Topic: DX Marathon, The Fastest Growing DX Program in the World Today

Date: Monday, May 20, 2024

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

Abstract: The DX Marathon Program is a year-long program that begins January 1st and ends December 31st. There is no sign up needed....participants simply log their DX contact entities and zones in their logging program all year. The program is extremely simple in that there are no confirmations of Q's required, no multipliers, and submission is quite simple.

Mark will explain the basic rules and how participation is fun, rewarding, and allows you to either compete or simply use the program as a self-evaluation metric from year to year to see how you are doing in pursuing DX. The program is best described with three words - fun, simple, and global. Approximately two thirds of the participants are outside of North America with the balance are in the US and Canada. The rules established attempt to place the participants in a level playing field so you are comparing yourself against hams around the world with similar equipment setups. There are opportunities to enter in single bands, or single modes, or all bands and all modes. The frequencies range from 160 to 6 meters including the WARC bands. Participation in your favorite contests is also possible, recording any contact Q's there as DX worked in the DX Marathon Program.

Lots of recognition occurs in the program for achievements in many areas. Plaques and certificates are issued each year. The rules can be found on the DXMarathon website.

The greatest challenge that Mark has discovered in expanding the DX Marathon Program is that so many hams do not know that it exists. He has spent a huge amount of time doing Zoom meetings in the last 15 months, almost 70 to clubs. The year over year growth in participation has been +46% between 2021 and 2022 and +50% between 2022 and 2023! Mark attributes this to making more hams aware of this wonderful program that is fun, global, and refreshing/relaxing.

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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).

(meeting information, continued)

About Our Speaker: Mark currently live in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. He operates a remote station in Yeehaw Valley, FL about 80 miles north of his home QTH.

Mark is a graduate of Bradley University in Peoria, IL (where he was born). He majored in electrical engineering. He followed his undergraduate degree with a BS in Industrial Engineering/MBA at Bradley, finishing his dissertation at the North Carolina State University.

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 18, 2024	Courtney Duncan	N5BF	Amateur Radio's Contributions to Mankind's Biggest Projects
April 15, 2024	Anthony Luscre	K8ZT	10 Worst Antennas for Amateur Radio and How You Can Do Better!
May 20, 2024	Mark Wohlschlegel	WC3W	DX Marathon, The Fastest Growing DX Program in the World Today
June 17, 2024	Tim Long & James MacMurray	W2UI, N2UZQ	SARA Elections, Field Day Planning, and Broughton Award Presentation

SARA Board Meeting May 8, 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 (W) Board member: Jim Silva WA2JMS

Board member: Paul Siemers WY2F Board member: Bob Saltzman WB2ARK (W)

Treasurer Tim Long W2UI

Meeting opened by President Skip Evans at 7:02 PM.**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the April 13, 2024 meeting were circulated to the board by email and published in the March SARA News. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes.**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 Thursday, May 23, to finalize a list of possible programs to submit to members.**Public Service Events:** Tim Long updated the board regarding providing communications for the Burnt Hills Flag Day Parade, which will be held on Thursday, June 13.**Field Day:** Tim Long reported that everything is in good shape for Field Day. The need for safety officer representation throughout field day weekend was discussed.**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 slate of nominees for officers and board members for 2024-2025 was published in the April SARA News, and will be published in the May SARA News.**Old Business:** Bob Saltzman reported that we will switch from WEBEX to ZOOM as of June 12, 2024.**New Business:** Arrangements were made to organize the AB-577 tower equipment on Saturday, May 18, in preparation for Field Day.**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:47 PM.

Submitted by board member Jim Silva WA2JMS, May 8, 2024.

SARA Trading Post

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.

Want to Buy: Large cross-needle SWR meter for HF
 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.