SARA NEWS

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

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

Message from the president:

The September meeting featured Alan Wolke W2AEW, who gave a crisp review of what amateur radio enthusiasts should know about instruments...from Volt-Ohm-Milliammeters (VOMs) to oscilloscopes and spectrum analyzers. Being an instrument "junkie" myself since my dad and I decided to tackle repairing our black-and-white television using our then state-of-the-art Heathkit O-9 oscilloscope and VTVM, I thought I might gain a tip or two from the presentation. I wound up with 2 pages of notes, including a note to look for a Simpson 260 Mark 6 at the next hamfest! In addition, Alan gave a clear explanation of how the oscilloscope probe compensation capacitor works to sharpen the 'scope trace of a square wave.

Speaking of hamfests, the SCARA hamfest went well, even though I did not win the grand prize (ICOM IC-7300 Mark II). I discovered that Q-meters have a tendency to reproduce, at least at hamfests. For example, I brought a nice boat anchor VHF Q-meter to sell, and I came home with that Q-meter and a nearly identical twin. Strange, but true!

Field Day 2026

I hope you can make it to the October SARA meeting. Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, has a great story that should be useful to every ham, especially POTA activators.

73, Jim WA2JMS

note: the October SARA Board Meeting minutes will be published in next month's SARA News

"Hints and Kinks" brief presentations at SARA meetings:

If you would like to present a project or problem (with or without a solution), please contact Jim WA2JMS to get on the schedule for future meetings. The idea is to use the first 5 minutes of our meetings to give you a chance to share your project or problem (7:00—7:05 PM).

The October SARA meeting will be held at the

Alplaus Fire Station

and will also be available via Zoom (link will be sent out prior to the meeting)

Topic: Stealth and Portable Antennas

Speaker: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Date: Monday, October 19, 2026

Time: 7:00—8:30 PM

Abstract: There are a number of factors that may limit your ability to put up a traditional antenna at your home - HOAs, local laws, rental agreements, and of course spousal approval. This session will help you get around these issues and get you on the air. We will explore a number of solutions, and give tips for better performance, while maintaining RF safety and avoiding RFI. Along the way will also bust some antenna myths.

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 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 123,000. 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 333 mark (with 323 confirmed), and he has completed 11-band WAS.

Anthony has presented over 600 ham radio-related sessions since the beginning of COVID-19. He has presented for Contest University, QSO Today Expo, Dayton Hamvention Antenna Forum, ARRL and RSGB Webinars and RATPAC.us. He teaches a weekly class, “The Joy of Operating” for the LICW Club and serves on the planning committees for RATPAC and the State QSO Party Challenge. In 2024, he received the Dayton Hamvention “Special Achievement Award”. (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 meet in the Multi-purpose Room (entrance is on the North side of this building).

Now retired, Anthony served 20 years as a 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 and his wife Linda, KA8ODP, live near Akron, in Stow, Ohio.

2026-2027 Program Schedule

Date	Presenter	Call Sign	Topic
September 21, 2026	Alan Wolke	W2AEW	Practical Information about Test Equipment in the Shack
October 19, 2026	Anthony Luscre	K8ZT	Stealth and Portable Antennas
November 16, 2026	Richard Ferranti	W6MIT	Calling All Rangers: A Technical History of Radio Development in the US Forest Service, 1930 – 1960
December 8, 2026 6:00 PM	-	-	Holiday Party
January 18, 2027	Open		
February 15, 2027	Open		
March 15, 2027	Open		
April 19, 2027	Tom Lewis	-	Empire of the Air
May 17, 2027	Bob Saltzman	WB2ARK	Encrypted Communications and Enigma
June 21, 2027	Tim Long & William B Savocool	W2UI, K2SAV	SARA Elections, Field Day Planning, and Broughton Award Presentation

SARA Trading Post

Wanted: 70 cm (440Mhz) YAGI antenna.

Free or cheap. Dean, K8TM

ICOM SP20 Speaker $75

Contact Manny, NF2Q

Hammarlund HQ-140-X and Hammarlund speaker (below, left). $125 or best offer.

Boonton 190A VHF Q-meter (below, right). $100 or best offer.

Both in Excellent Condition. Contact Jim, WA2JMS

See next-to-last page for contact information.

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@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: 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

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Public Service Events
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Volunteer Examiner Team
Vacant - please consider volunteering

RFI/TVI
Vacant—please consider volunteering

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.