



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

February 2023

www.siarc.us

Good morning! It looks like the ground hog saw his shadow so we are blessed with 6 more weeks of winter (have not had much so far I think!), so be ready. Of course, he has only been right 40% of the time. About as good as the professionals I will bet.

Our **next meeting** will be on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at the Safety Training Center on County Road 48 and begins at 7:30pm. The program will probably be something on Parks on the Air (POTA), a video that Sandy is working on.

Please be aware that because of the Russian Invasion, ALL amateur radio activity in Ukraine (UR-UZ, EM-EO) has been suspended. So sad that this war continues.

We continue to hold the Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (except club meeting nights) so there is ample opportunity to catch up with your friends. We just had net #727 this week. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The January meeting saw our club flea market and there were a few items that traded hands. Hope it worked out for those that participated. FYI, SIARC will have a couple of tables at the Drumblins Hamfest on April 22 so keep that in mind if you want to peddle a few items.

The **Winter Field Day** event held this past weekend at my home went very well. We had some great conversations, learned some more about putting up stations, good food and even made 50 contacts, from Prince Edward Island to San Diego. Operators were KD2PER, N2EZY, KC2TCM, WD2STK, KD2LBM, KB2NCI and visits by KA2HQZ (thanks for helping with set up), WB2VMR, KC2UAC and KD2JZQ. See you next year!

I know a couple of our folks have been doing some Parks on the Air activations and operating from your outdoor sites, any reports on the fun you are having? We would all be very interested in hearing from you!

Any interesting or unusual contacts made? What have you been doing with amateur radio? Build anything interesting? Let me know and I can publicize it. And you can always show it off by doing a little program for the club. Any new radios or equipment in your inventory?

Upcoming Events

We have reserved room at the **Villager Restaurant**, South Main St., Canandaigua, on Saturday, February 18 at 8am for a **Ham Radio Breakfast**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is the first one we have had since Covid began two years ago. Thanks to Steve WB2VMR for getting this going.

The **next VE Session** is scheduled for March 8, 2023 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED**. Contact Sabrina, WD2STK, at testing@siarc.us if you would like to be on the list of examinees. She will also need VEs. See www.siarc.us under Radio Amateur Exams for complete information. Thanks to Sabrina and her team for keeping this worthwhile project up and running.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in Vermont, Minnesota, British Columbia, South Carolina, North Carolina, North American Sprint CW, ARRL International DX Contest CW, North American RTTY QSO Party, ARRL School Club Roundup, and many others. See the February QST pages 69 and 83 and the WA7BNM website www.contestcalendar.com for more information. These events are a great way to build up your DXCC, WAS and other scores for stations worked. And they are fun!

The ARRL is sponsoring a year long event, **Volunteers on the Air**. It recognizes the many volunteers around the country that keep the ARRL and amateur radio growing and healthy. Check out the article in the On the Air January/February issue for details.

Hamfests in the Future:

Keuka Lake Groundhog Hamfest, Almond, NY—February 4

Drumlins Hamfest, Palmyra VFW, April 22

AWA Spring Meet and Auction, Bloomfield—May 13

RARA Hamfest, location TBD--June 3

RAGS Hamfest, Camillus—July 8

Batavia Hamfest, Alexander—July 15

Ithaca Hamfest, Trumansburg—August 5

Roc City Hamfest, Macedon—August 26

Lancaster Hamfest, Lancaster—September 9

The **Antique Wireless Association** is working on a project to bring amateur radio and all of its fun to school age children by constructing a portable station that could be taken to the students. They are looking for any interested parties to help with this project. Below are their goals for the program:

Goal: To introduce and educate children about communication technologies as a component of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) by:

- a. Constructing a self-contained, portable amateur radio station transportable in an enclosed cargo trailer for the purpose of educating and demonstrating to children the basics of wireless communications during good times and in emergencies; and
- b. Supporting a special effort to reach out to our region's underserved rural communities; and
- c. Facilitating visits to schools, scouts, libraries, camps, homeschool groups, fairs and public service events; and
- d. Supporting AWA's educational outreach efforts, which extend well beyond the AWA campus.

If you are interested, please contact Bob Hobday at president@antiquewireless.org

SAVE the date—the Drumlins Hamfest will be April 22!!!

And, this year marks the club's 70th Birthday. What can we do?

RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

Public Service Events for 2023 include:

Wild Water Derby, Shortsville, April 29

Tour De Cure, Webster—June 10

Shortsville Fire Department Parade, June 16

Musselman Ironman, Geneva and Seneca County, July 9

Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter, August 5.

Pumpkin Patrol, NYS Thruway overpasses, October 30 and 31

Mark your calendars to help out.

Jeff Harloff, the Emergency Management Director has named Steve WB2VMR, as the new **Radio Officer** for Ontario County. Your support of his efforts will be greatly appreciated.

The next scheduled Admin Meeting will be on Thursday, February 16 at 9am at the Safety Training Center. All RACES members are welcome to attend.

We are scheduling an exercise to be held at the Safety Training Center on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 9am for all interested RACES members. Details will follow. The goal is to hold these exercises during the odd months of the year.

I encourage all of you to check into our weekly RACES/ARES nets, which are on Sundays at 8pm (except around holidays) (you are invited to check into any other net also) and practice those skills that someday you may be called upon to use. They are held on the W2ONT 145.450- (pl 110.9) repeater. We are also looking for additional stations to practice being Net Control and Assistant Net Control. In the event we are called out, having experience as Net Control will be very beneficial. We will be migrating to a more digital usage for the nets. Use of FLDIGI and MT63 will be very important for our mission to assist the Emergency Management Office. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at kb2nci@arrl.net or 585-924-0752. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please see or contact me. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep it as current as possible.

The New York State RACES net is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 3993.5khz LSB and members are always welcome and to get some more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 3583.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try!

Monitor the W2ONT 145.450 repeater in times of severe weather or area wide power outages. And if you do not hear anyone, start up an informal net.

Odd and Ends

The Maritime Mobile Services Net (mmsn.org) operates daily on 14.300mhz from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times.

A few months ago, I asked for some assistance with a couple of areas and these are the folks I tapped.

Technical Committee Chair—Steve WB2VMR

Programs—Sandy KA2HQZ

Publicity—Doug KD2LGE

Please contact them if you would like to assist in their area or have ideas.

A new **RF Exposure Calculator** has been added to the Links on the SIARC website. The calculator was produced by the Lake Washington Ham Club in Redmond, Washington. Check it out and be prepared for the rule change requiring amateurs to evaluate their stations for RF Exposure. Below is the link to the FAQ from the ARRL.

[RF Exposure Calculator FAQ.pdf](#)

For all the new hams, are you aware of QRZ.com? It is a wealth of information on hams WORLDWIDE and carries informative articles, editorials. It is editable by the individual ham so can be updated as often as you like. They also have a logger for your contacts. Check it out!

I would encourage all ARRL members to check out the new publication the League has introduced, “On the Air”, aimed at new hams and those experienced hams that have some questions. The January/February issue covers many topics, including articles on Baluns and Chokes, Electronic Kits, Programming your VHF/UHF radio, and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership. Your membership allows you to see the digital version of all of their periodicals QST, QEX and NCJ.

Discover the ARRL Learning Center and how to “Make Amateur Radio Your Own” at [Make Amateur Radio Your Own | ARRL Learning Center](#). Give a look-see!!

NEW REPEATERS:

Dave W2ACC reports that the W2WDS 146.985- (82.5) repeater is up and running in Naples. This is the former frequency for the N2LSJ repeater in Penn Yan. There is also an APRS I-Gate at this site. This repeater is linked to the WB2KAO 444.850+ (110.9) repeater in Greece only on Saturday nights for the Green Eggs and Hams Net.

There is a **new 6 meter repeater** on the air, from Naples. The call sign is W2WDS. It is on a tower site space provided by Dean, W2WDS, and the frequency is 53.110- (pl 82.5). The **440 repeater on the same site**, 442.500+ (82.5) is on the air as well. The 442.500 is linked to the WB2KAO repeater 444.850+ (110.9) in Greece. Many of our members have been getting on the air with 6 meters. Looks like fun. Thanks to Dave W2ACC and Dean for these upgrades.

As a reminder, the Smoke Signals and meeting minutes are posted as soon as possible on the SIARC website. This is an easy way to keep up with the group if you miss a meeting. Steve has also started posting the Minutes of the Board Meetings, which will be held at various times throughout the year. Thanks to Steve, KD2OM, for keeping the website up to date.

For local repeaters, you can go to www.rochesterham.org and click on Useful Links to find a quick reference. You can also go to www.unyrepco.org and www.wnysorc.org for repeaters in western New York. Lots of information is available, and the councils are continually trying to keep it current. I recommend becoming a member of UNYREPCO as that covers our immediate area.

If you travel, look at www.repeaterbook.com for lots of repeater information. They have an app for your phone that shows repeaters within 50 miles of where you are. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information.

Dave W2ACC has repeaters up in Waterloo that can offer good coverage to our east. They are on 145.130- (pl 110.9) and 442.225+ (pl 82.5). Give them a try. Dave’s 220mHz repeater (on the Stanley tower) is now up and waiting to be used. The frequency is 224.26 (-1.6mHz offset and pl of 110.9).

From Dave, W2ACC

“There is a **220 net** on Tuesday night 7:00 pm and three nets on Friday night. 7:00 pm is the Syracuse world net followed by Tech net and the a swap net. My 220 is tied into all of them along with KA2NDW and KD2SL

My 900 MHZ repeater is up and running”

927.212	902.212
5	5

With an 82.5 tone

All are welcome

73

Dave

W2ACC

Check out www.dstarusers.org and www.dstarinfo.com for lots of information on D-Star.

Dues are payable in September for the next year. They are \$10 for an individual, \$14 for a family and \$100 for Life membership. Please see Stan WM3D to pay. He would love to hear from you! You can also send your renewals to me, Tom Sanders at 6310 Gillis Road, Victor, NY 14564 and I will forward to Stan.

Please be sure to inform Stan WM3D or Tom KB2NCI if you change your preferred email address and phone number, or other changes in your contact information. Having up to date information helps if we need to reach you quickly (e.g. canceling the Holiday party).

A reminder to renew your ARRL membership (you are a member, aren't you?) through the club. We get a commission on each new (\$15) and renewal (\$5) if the club sends it in. See Tom KB2NCI for details. I encourage you to support the ARRL and become or maintain membership. They may not be perfect, but they try hard to represent all of amateur radio.

What projects are you working on or involved in? We would love to hear about them, either at the meeting or in the Smoke Signal. Let me know.

Nets

STILL GOING---Since March 17, 2020, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820 repeater, nightly at 8pm, Monday through Friday. It is intended as a net for hams to keep in contact with others during the virus situation. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net #727 and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK	Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net
145.450- (110.9) W2ONT	Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES training net
146.685- (71.9) WA2EMO	Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES net
146.610- (110.9) N2MPE	Thursdays (except 4 th) 9pm Monroe County RACES net
3993.5kHz LSB	Sundays at 9am New York State RACES net

Club/RACES Repeaters

K2BWK	146.820- (110.9) Canandaigua
K2BWK D-Star	147.375+ Honeoye
K2BWK D-Star	443.500+ Honeoye
W2ONT	145.450- (110.9) Gannett Hill
W2ONT	442.200+ (110.9) Gannett Hill—linked to 147.090+
W2ONT	147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall—linked to 442.200+
KD2HVC D-Star	444.300+ Stanley
KD2HYJ D-Star	444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

President's Thoughts

It looks like this weekend will bring some real winter temperatures to much of the country. Now is the time to prepare for this and hopefully you do not need to stray outside much on Friday and Saturday morning.

In this issue, I mentioned several public service events for the upcoming year and they can always use your assistance to help with safety on the courses and/or roadways. Our mission from the FCC, includes assisting our communities in times of need, and all of these events are a great place to practice our communication skills and become more familiar with our radios and their capabilities. They are also fun events and provide you with the opportunity to meet and become familiar with others in the area. As you probably have picked up, this part of the hobby is a main focus of mine, so I try to be a part of as many as I can, so watch for my emails looking for volunteers. I encourage you to also help out, when and where you can, to fulfill one of our purposes as amateurs. If you have any questions, I would be happy to try to answer them.

Take care of yourself and each other.

Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio, Be Safe and I hope to catch you on the radio!

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

kb2nci@arrl.net

585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

The Amateur's Code^[1] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[2] The Radio Amateur is:

^[3]CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.^[4]

^[5]LOYAL Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other ^[6]amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, ^[7]through which Amateur Radio in the United States is ^[8]represented nationally and internationally.^[9]

^[10]PROGRESSIVE With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

^[11]FRIENDLY With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly ^[12]advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These ^[13]are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

^[L]_[SEP]BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to ^[L]_[SEP]family, job, school or community.^[L]_[SEP]
PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and ^[L]_[SEP]community.