



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

March 2022

www.siarc.us

Welcome to March in upstate New York. It is typically a changeable month, weather wise. I remember my first March here and the Ice Storm of 1991. I hope we don't reproduce that!

Be sure to **change your clocks on March 13**. We lose an hour at 2am that Sunday. And, the days are getting longer. Great maple syrup production weather!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at the Safety Training Center, 2914 County Road 48, Canandaigua (our usual haunt) at 7:30pm. The meeting follows the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm. The program is to be determined.

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

We continue to hold the Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, so there is ample opportunity to catch up with your friends. We just hit net number 500! I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The February meeting program was part 2 of Dave's Enigma machine program. Thanks Dave KB2KBY. It was very interesting and informative.

February saw several state QSO parties. I was able to make many contacts in Minnesota and North Carolina and fewer in Vermont and South Carolina. I also heard several POTA activations on HF as well. I also made a contact with a station in Alaska on 20 meters one evening. Cool!! Let me know of the fun you are having on the bands!

I know a couple of our folks have been doing some Parks on the Air activations and operating from your winter 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.

Upcoming Events

The **next VE Session** is scheduled for March 9, 2022 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED**. Contact Russ N2IZV at n2izv@outlook.com if you would like to be on his list of examinees. He will also need VEs. Thanks to Russ N2IZV and his team for keeping this worthwhile project up and running.

At the January meeting, we voted to offer to those that pass their exams, one year of free membership in SIARC. We hope that this will help them to become more active and help with the many questions new hams have.

The schedule of test sessions for the rest of 2022 is:

May 11

July 13

September 14

November 9

The results from the January testing are:

Technicians-- Luke KD2YOZ, Rachel KD2YPA, Jeffrey KD2YPB, Angelo KD2YPC, Wayne KD2YPD, Valerie KD2YPE, Donald KD2YPF

Generals—Louis KD2WRI and Benjamin KD2YPG

Congratulations to all and we hope to hear you on the air! These folks were from Pittsford, Penfield, Auburn, Waterloo, Elmira and Horseheads.

The Drumlins Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday, April 30 and will be held at the Palmyra VFW post at 4306 SR 31. It begins at 8am and runs until the afternoon. See <http://drumlinsarc.us/hamfest-info/> for details. SIARC will have two tables available for members. I hope you can support a local club and see your friends.

Other hamfests are:

Hamvention, Greene County, Ohio, May 20, 21 and 22

Cortland, June 11

Northeast HamXposition 2022, Marlborough, MA August 26, 27 and 28

Anybody go to the Orlando HamCation? Send me a report for posting.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (First Tuesday evening of the month), QSO parties in Oklahoma, Idaho, Wisconsin, Virginia, ARRL International SSB DX Contest, North American RTTY Sprint, South America 10 meter contest, and many others. See the March QST pages 72 and 82 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!

Public Service events I am aware of at this time for 2022 are the:

Tour De Cure, Webster, June 11

Musselman Ironman, Geneva, July 10—sign up at [Volunteer for IRONMAN with VolunteerLocal - simple volunteer registration](#)

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

Field Day is June 25 and 26. Planning will begin soon.

RACES and ARES

Our next administrative meeting is scheduled for March 24 at 9am at the Safety Training Center. All RACES members are welcome to attend.

All RACES members should have (and know how to access) their Disaster Lan (D-LAN) account. If you have any questions on this, send Scott N2UMH an email at scott.teresi@ontariocountyny.gov. In the future, this will be the preferred method of internal communications for the group. And it will be one of our primary tasks to assist the county when needed.

The Fire Frequency Interference project is still underway. We are monitoring 453.3125mhz for possible digital signals that are interfering with emergency communications. If you hear those digital signals, please note the time, day, your location, what radio and antenna you are using and forward the report to Doug KD2LGE at kd2lge@gmail.com and he will record it. Thanks for whatever you can provide.

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, but we will be discontinuing the use of FLMSG for our nets and drills, due to the difficulty of keeping everyone on the same version. It appears that the use of different versions of FLMSG makes receiving the transmission very spotty. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at kb2nci@arrl.net or 585-924-0752 or Scott N2UMH at scott.teresi@ontariocountyny.gov. 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

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 that amateurs must 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 CW, Propagation, Anatomy of a Rubber Duck 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.

NEW REPEATERS:

Dave W2ACC reports that the KD2NOL 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 also linked to the WB2KAO 444.850+ (110.9) repeater in Greece.

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. 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
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5	5
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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 and renewal 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 #500 and have covered a range of topics and have heard from new hams in Yates and Seneca Counties.

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
W2ONT	147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall
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 was great to see folks again at the March meeting. I am hopeful that we will continue to open up our lives and get back to “normal” again soon.

Be vigilant in your travels and I wish you good health. Ours is a very social hobby and although we are lucky to be able to keep in contact with each other without being in their presence, meeting face to face is very enjoyable and necessary for our happiness. I look forward to seeing all of you again over the next few months.

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^[SEP] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[SEP] The Radio
Amateur is:

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

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

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

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

^[SEP]BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to^[SEP] family, job,
school or community.^[SEP]

PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and^[SEP] community.