



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

April 2023

www.siarc.us

Well, March did not exit like a lamb, but was not too bad. Nice and sunny (COLD) today as I write this on Sunday, but a pretty day. Too cold for me to do outside work so staying inside it is.

Our **next meeting** will be on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at the Safety Training Center on County Road 48 and begins at 7:30pm. The program will be by Dave N2EZY and cover "Ham Radio in 1953". That is the year the club was formed. All are welcome to attend.

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 #767 this week. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

Congratulations to Charlie KC2UAC on attaining his General Class License in March. Way to GO!! Enjoy your new privileges on HF.

The March program was by Steve KA1CNF and covered the Yaesu Fusion and Wires-X systems and modes. It was very interesting and there is so much that can be done. Thanks, Steve!

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

The **Wild Water Derby in Shortsville** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 29, 2023**. Our group usually provides operators to help with the start and finish lines (recording times) and with some operators placed along the route to watch for safety concerns. A handheld radio is usually all that is needed and a little enthusiasm for the participants. Our part usually runs from 10am to 2pm. Todd says that bag lunches will be provided. If you can help, please contact me at kb2nci@gmail.com .

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** is scheduled for May 10, 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. We are one of the few groups to offer this service.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Georgia, Nebraska, Michigan, Ontario, North Dakota, Quebec, Florida, State Parks on the Air in Florida and Texas, ARRL Rookie Round Up SSB, and many others. See the April QST pages 69 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!

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 or www.arrl.org for details.

Hamfests in the Future:

Drumlins Hamfest, Palmyra VFW, April 22
AWA Spring Meet and Auction, Bloomfield—May 13
RARA Hamfest, Hilton--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

ARRL Rookie Roundup

Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while "Old Timers" make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event! See [Rookie Roundup \(arrl.org\)](https://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup) for details for this event held Sunday April 16, 2023.

World Amateur Radio Day is April 18

In less than a month, 2023 World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) will be celebrated, literally, around the world!

WARD is held on April 18 every year and is celebrated by radio amateurs and their national associations which are organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president.

The IARU [announced previously](#) that Human Security for All (HS4A) will be this year's World Amateur Radio Day theme. The day is being celebrated with a 2-week operating event occurring April 11 - 25. Special event stations will be operating from around the world, making two-way radio contacts to call attention to the HS4A campaign. The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security describes 'human security' as "a more powerful, lasting approach to the most difficult deficits in peace and development," such as poverty, war, and natural disasters.

ARRL encourages all radio amateurs to take to the airwaves for WARD, to enjoy our global friendship with other amateurs, and to show our skills and capabilities to the public.

More information about 2023 World Amateur Radio Day is available at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day and www.iaru.org/on-the-air/world-amateur-radio-day

[Photo Gallery](#)

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!!! It will be held at the Palmyra VFW 4306 SR 31, between Newark and Palmyra (look for the ARMY tank!). Doors open at 8am and there are flea market tables available. If you just have a few items, SIARC will have a couple of tables for members to use. Just don't drop and run! See www.drumlinsarc.org for details.

And, this year marks SIARC's 70th Birthday. What can we do? See the Presidents Thoughts below for information.

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

Thank you to the Ontario County Emergency Management Office for its continued support.

Public Service Events for 2023 include:

Wild Water Derby, Shortsville, April 29—help will be needed!

Tour De Cure, Webster—June 10—help will be needed.

Shortsville Fire Department Parade, June 16—help will be needed.

Musselman Ironman, Geneva and Seneca County, July 9—help will be needed.

Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter, August 5—help will be needed.

MS ROC Great Lakes Experience, Waterport, NY—August 12—help will be needed.

Pumpkin Patrol, NYS Thruway overpasses, October 30 and 31—help will be needed.

Mark your calendars to help out.

The next scheduled Admin Meeting will be on Thursday, April 20 at 7pm at the Safety Training Center. **This will be an evening meeting** so those that cannot make the morning meetings can attend. All RACES members are welcome to attend.

We are scheduling an exercise to be held at the Safety Training Center on Saturday, May 20, 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@arri.net or 585-924-0752. If you are not a member and would like to

become one, please contact me or our Radio Officer, Steve WB2VMR. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep it as current as possible.

-----NEW-----

Starting March 26, we will be holding a practice session in Sending FLDIGI on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm before the 8pm Net. These sessions will also be on the W2ONT 145.450- (110.9) repeater. These are to give you practice at sending a message digitally. As those that participated can tell you, Murphy likes to visit your station during this time. Please try to join us. The NCS for the evening will start these up at 7:30pm.

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 March/April issue covers many topics, including articles on Tropospheric Ducting, Radio Orienteering, Building a simple 10 meter Antenna, 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.

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.

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).

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 #767 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

I want to remind everyone that Saturday, April 22, will be the Drumlins Hamfest at the Palmyra VFW post at 4306 SR 31, Palmyra. It starts at 8am and SIARC will have two tables for members to sell some items. It is a great way to move a few items along and not have to rent a whole table. Please be able to spend some time at the table to watch over the equipment and let others roam around also. I will be around early to help with hamfest set up so look for me if you have stuff to bring in. Drumlins always kicks off hamfest season in our area so let's all get out to support our fellow hams. See you there!!

Mark Saturday, **July 1, on your calendar for the summer picnic and commemoration** of the club's 70th anniversary. It will be held at my home in Victor and we can also set up a couple of stations for operation. More details will follow and I will be looking for a small committee to assist.

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^[SEP] 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.

^[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.