



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

May 2025

www.siarc.us

Coming into May and the April showers are still here. Will be very nice for the flowers and lilacs! (And keeping the lawn mower busy).

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025** and begins at 7:30pm in the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. All are welcome!! The program is by Dave N2EZY and will be his presentation on CW Keyers. Should be very interesting. There will NOT be VE testing this month. That will return in July. Sabrina will be testing at Hamvention in May.

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 hit net #1259 this week, so thank you to all who have checked in since March 2020. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

Our April program was a zoom presentation by Kuldeep Pandey from HamSCI on last years Solar Eclipse. Following is a synopsis by Dave Hunter N2EZY. Thanks Dave, as it was a bit over my head.

April 2025 HamSCI presentation

Summarized by Dave Hunter N2EZY

For the April meeting we had Kuldeep Pandey from HamSCI present over Zoom his research and analysis of the 2024 eclipse data. Since it was approximately one year since the solar eclipse, it was an appropriate time to discuss the findings of his research. He also used the

data from the 2017 eclipse to compare a low sunspot propagation condition versus a high sunspot propagation.

In his research he used the log information from both the 2017 and 2024 Eclipse QSO parties to determine propagation conditions before, during and after the eclipse. Using the log information, he could determine from the end points of the transmissions and the frequency, the approximate center point of the radio wave skip. From this data he could determine a number of things.

The first insight was to show how the propagation changed during the eclipse. From this, he was able to show that the transition to “nighttime” like propagation occurred rapidly as the eclipse progressed but returned to “daytime” like propagation slower. The MUF was higher in 2024 due to the higher sunspot activity on the sun. Note: this was one of the goals of the 2024 eclipse party to see how quickly propagation changes

The second insight was to be able to better model the characteristics of the ionosphere. Using the QSO data Kuldeep was able to adjust his ionosphere model. From this he showed that his adjusted model correlated well with the test data, though there are still anomalies in the data that are not yet explained. So, more investigation was needed.

In conclusion Kuldeep thanked the amateur radio community for helping gather data that he could use to further his research and modeling.

The Drumlins Hamfest was held on Saturday, April 19 in Palmyra and was well attended again this year. There were many tables of “flea market” bargains to be found and one commercial vendor, KJI Electronics from New Jersey was there. It was a great opportunity to see old and new friends and get a good breakfast and lunch. I hope to see you all there in 2026!

This past weekend, several members of SIARC, Drumlins, Monroe County ARES and Tompkins County RACES assisted with two public service events. The first was on Saturday, the Wild Water Derby in Shortsville. This was the 50th anniversary of the event and hams have helped with scoring and safety for many of those years. We used the K2BWK 146.820 club repeater and two simplex UHF frequencies for this event. Those who volunteered were: KA2HQZ, KB2FSB, WB2RRE, KD2LGE, WB2VMR and KB2NCI.

The second event was on Sunday, the Seneca 7 Running Relay race around Seneca Lake. There were 2100 runners (300 teams of 7) that started and ended at the Welcome Center

in Geneva. The first wave left at 5:45am and the last at 9:15am. The final runner and team crossed the finish line around 8:15pm. A long day indeed. Those who volunteered were: KD2DNO, KC2TNJ, KB2FSB, WD2STK, N2TPQ, W2LVP, KC2TCM, KD2TWM and KB2NCI. The club received a very nice donation from the Seneca 7 group for our participation and I have a couple of suggestions on where some of it can go. We will discuss in a meeting. I would like to have more members volunteer to help this event as it covers 77 miles of roadways and the cell coverage is not always what you would like. Both groups were very pleased to have us help out. Thank you to the trustees/owners of the two repeaters we used: W2ACC 145.130 and K2ZG 146.895. They both worked very well for us.

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? Did you operate for Amateur Radio Day? 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?

If you have assisted in any public service events that I may not be aware of, please let me know so you can be acknowledged.

Upcoming Events

The **AWA Spring Meet, Flea Market and Auction** will be held Saturday, May 3, at Veterans Park in Bloomfield. The Flea Market opens at 7am and the Auction is at 1pm. All are welcome. See [2024 Spring Meet Preview - Antique Wireless Association](#) for details.

Our next **Breakfast will be on Saturday, May 10** at 8am at Ray's Restaurant, 2510 Rochester Road (SR 332) in Canandaigua. All are welcome.

ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST (10 May 2025) The Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test, scheduled for May 10, 2025. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between hobbyist and government radio stations. The AFD Crossband Test is a unique

opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario that does not impact any public or private communications. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All times are ZULU (Z), and all frequencies are Upper Side Band (USB) unless otherwise noted. The frequencies used for the test will not impact any public or private communications and will not stray outside the confines of the exercise. See [ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND MILITARY/AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TEST \(10 MAY 2008\) Revised 07May 2008](#) for more details.

The new Yaesu repeater has arrived and is in the process of being programmed and installed at the VA tower soon. We will keep the current repeater on site in case it is needed.

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on July 9, 2025. The session will begin at 6:30pm. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team of dedicated volunteer examiners. You provide a great service to the ham radio community. She will need VEs to help administer the exams, so please contact her if you can help. See the SIARC website, Exam page, for details. There will not be testing in May as Sabrina and Jay will be prepping for the trip to Dayton Hamvention. They do a lot to assist with testing there and make a great impact on the hobby. Thank You!!

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in the 7th Call Area, Indiana, Delaware, New England, Canadian Prairies, Arkansas, W9IMS Indianapolis Motor Speedway special events and many others. See the May QST pages 73 and 90 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!

I am continuing to prepare for the upcoming public service event season and I want to alert all interested parties of the dates as I become aware of them. Please mark your calendar to help out with some or all of these events that support our community and amateur radio.

June 7—Tour De Cure, Stokoe Farms, Scottsville (details at www.rochesterham.org)

June 20—Shortsville Fire Department Parade
July 13—Musselman Ironman, Geneva
August 2—Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter races
September 7—Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua
October 5—Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County
October 30 and 31—Pumpkin Patrol, Thruway bridges

Rochester Hamfest is coming—

I'm writing on behalf of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association

> (RARA) Hamfest Committee. We have enjoyed hosting SIARC members during
> past events, so I wanted to reach out to make sure that your club has
> all of the latest details about this year's event.

>

> Date: Saturday, June 21, 2025

>

> Location:

> Barnard Fire Field

> 410 Maiden Lane

> Rochester, New York 14616

>

> Time:

> Flea Market Opens at 8:00am

> Flea Market Vendor Entry at 7:00am

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> Admission:

> RaRa Members are FREE

> Non-members: \$10

> Under 18 years of age / Students: FREE

> Flea Market Sales: \$5 per vehicle

I have attached the event flyer, which contains more details such as

> maps, etc. More information can also be found on the hamfest website:

> <https://www.rochesterham.org/hamfest.htm>

>

> We also invite your club members to gain free admission in exchange

> for volunteering for 2 hours in support of the hamfest. Please see

> the link in the above mentioned website.

> We look forward to seeing you and your club members at the hamfest!

> 73!

> Don Wegeng KD2WWY

ARRL Field Day is June 28 and 29 (always the last weekend of June). [Field Day](#) We will be holding it again at the Big M Game Club in Clifton Springs and partnering with Drumlins ARC. More information will follow, but keep the weekend open!! This is a great ham radio event and is very educational and fun. See the ARRL Field Day Locator to find our listing and those of events all across the US and Canada. [Field Day Station Locator](#) The club approved a \$5 subsidy for one shirt per member in March. Sandy or a designee will be taking orders at the May meeting and then Steve will place the order for a member pick up at the June meeting and you can pay then.

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.

The next **RACES meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 at 9am** in the Safety Training Center on CR 48. All are welcome to attend.

Steve WB2VMR will be attending a four day COM-X session in Oriskany before the next RACES meeting and will have some great information on what occurred.

RACES Training A number of members of Ontario County RACES have been participating in training courses over the last 2-3 years with the OIEC (Office of Interoperability and Emergency Communications) part of NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) to obtain communication credentialing for New York State. This has involved training at the NYS Training Facility in Oriskany, NY. These training sessions last from 3 to 5 days and are taken on a volunteer basis. Upon completion of the course, the student must take and pass a course test and then complete a Student Position Task Book within three years. Upon successfully completion the student is issued State Credentials for the subject course completed.

Ontario County RACES Radio Officer and County ARES Emergency Coordinator, Steve, recently received AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications) credentials from the OIEC. AUXCOMM is the amateur radio interface to the NYS DHSES Communication Unit. Hopefully, we will have more certified communications personnel from Ontario County RACES over the next year.

RACES and ARES is always looking for more participation and the recent events in western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene, show that disasters can occur in unexpected locations.

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@gmail.com or 585-430-9850. 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 the roster as current as possible.

The **New York State RACES net** is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 7281khz LSB and members are always welcome to check in and get more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 7081.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. Forty meters has worked very well, so for the time being, the net will remain there. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try! NYS RACES is also doing testing on 60 meters. It is a great band for these regional communications, so all members should have that capability. For more information on RACES, go to [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service \(RACES\) | Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services](#)

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 ARES net.

To receive emails on a national basis for ARES, ARRL members can subscribe to the ARES Letter by going to the ARRL website, Public Service tab, ARES tab, ARES Letter and then "How to Subscribe". It is a very informative publication.

The following is a list of digital HF nets you can listen and check into. Thanks to Paul KD2DO for this information.

Here are the digital nets in our area that you can listen into and now join.

*** MID-ATLANTIC Net: @ 1000L Sunday morning on 7.068 MHz USB.

*** NJ NBEMS Net: @ 0900L Sunday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NH NBEMS Net: @ 0700L Saturday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NY NBEMS Net: @ 0800L Saturday morning on 3.583 MHz USB.

*** US East NBEMS: @ 1900L Wednesday evening on 3.536 MHz USB.

*** MIDTN Net: Tues, Thurs & Sat 1930L on 3.582.5 MHz USB.

and for a change of pace

Feld Hell 30m net, Wed 2000 ET on 10.1410, FSKH105

Feld Hell 40m net, Thu 2100 ET on 7.0890, FSKH105

Feld Hell 80m net, Fri 2200 ET on 3.5835, FSKH105

Be sure your TxID and RxID buttons are activated and green on FLDIGI, to follow the mode used.

There are others when you have tried these.

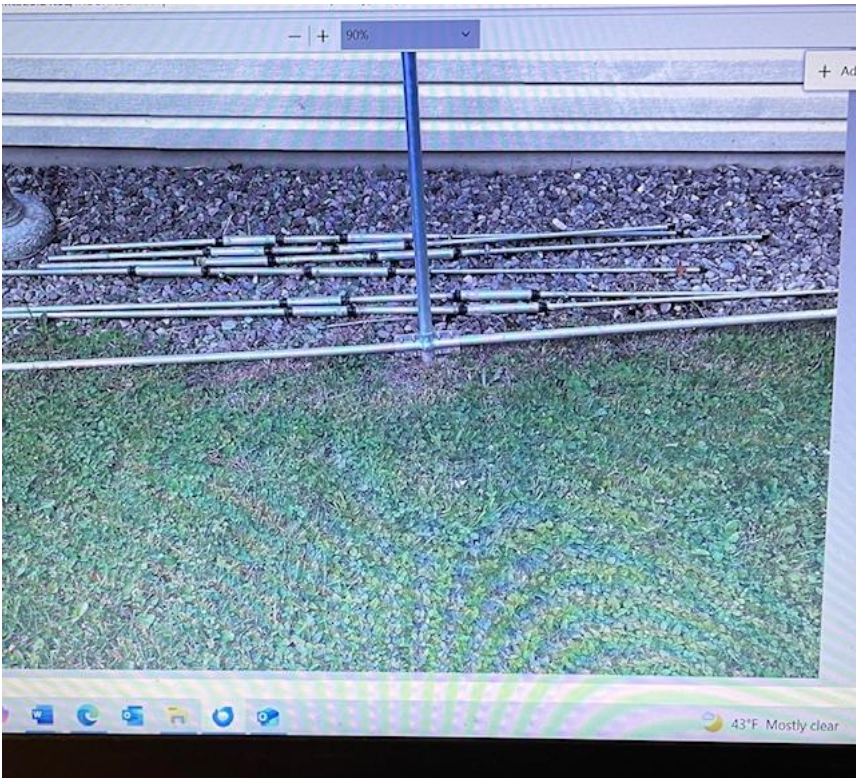
Odd and Ends

Welcome to our new Life member, Todd KK7ZRF, who resides between Canandaigua and Sedona, Arizona. I hope to see him at our events.

From Bill W2LVP

I recently acquired a Tri-Band Beam Antenna (10-15-20 meter) which is complete in all respects. I don't know the manufacturer or model, but it's in good shape. I am offering it free to any club member who wants it. The only caveat is they come and get it at my residence in Bloomfield. It's on the ground but will still require some disassembly.

73,





Bill B.
W2LVP

Be sure to check your license expiration periodically. You can renew through the FCC starting 90 days before expiration. See this link for instructions. [SOMMA.indd](#)

Remember that club dues need to be renewed in September. If you are not a Life member (only \$100), be sure to see Stan to keep current.

If you have items you would like to sell, let me know and I can post it in the Smoke Signal.

Doug KD2LGE has been working with a business, Apparel Printers Plus, on Main St in Victor, to provide club apparel. Contact Doug if you are interested and he can give you details.

There are lots of new hams in the area due to the great success of the local VE testing program. If you hear a new license (many are KE2xxx) be sure to call them and welcome them to the hobby.

Don't forget to add 146.520 simplex to your scan routine. It is a good frequency to find and help hams traveling through our area.

From the County Administrator's Newsletter and the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles:

DMV The Federal REAL ID deadline is now May 7, 2025. Though not mandatory, we encourage everyone to obtain a REAL ID compliant identification today! For more information please visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/federal-real-id>

A STAR in the upper right corner of your license indicates a REAL ID.

ARLB007 FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented.

Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The Public Notice can be found in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-219A1.pdf>.

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp>, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

NNNN

/EX From the ARRL Letter 3-22-2024.

A new link, **NY weather MESONET**, has been added to the SIARC website. It is a map of weather stations around New York State operated by the University at Albany, Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. The two closest to us are in Clifton Springs and South Bristol. Check it out!! [NYS Mesonet](#)

May 3, 2023, the transition period ends for all amateur transmitters to be compliant with the FCC Exposure Rules. We have had two years to get into compliance and now the time has come to “get ‘er done”. The complete article is in the May 2023 QST, pages 64, 65 and 66. It is our time to show the FCC that we can follow the rules for safe operation of our stations. You can also go to [RF Exposure Calculator \(arrrl.org\)](#)

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has designated **14.300Mhz** as a worldwide center of activity frequency for emergency traffic. There are two nets that run from 7am to 10pm eastern time daily. The **Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net**, aka Intercon, (www.intercontinentalnet.org) operates from 7am to noon and the **Maritime Mobile Services Net** (www.mmsn.org) operates daily from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times. Listen in for some interesting conversations.

During hurricane season, you can find some interesting traffic from the **Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org)** on 14.325Mhz days and 7.268Mhz nights, when a hurricane is within 300 miles of land.

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.

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 Getting Started on Digital Modes, When Good SWR goes Bad, Build an Ultra Simple 2 meter Coat Hanger Antenna, and many others. It is available on the website with your ARRL membership. Your membership also 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:

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 W2WDS 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. Another ham site with useful information for New York state is Upstate Ham [Upstate NY HAM Radio News & Information](#)

upstateham.com with many repeater lists. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information on repeaters and public safety.

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 and 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 work 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 (except meeting nights). It is intended as a net for hams to keep in contact with others. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net #1259 and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK
145.450- (110.9) W2ONT
146.685- (71.9) WA2EMO
146.610- (110.9) W2ARM
7281 kHz LSB

Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net
Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES training net
Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES net
Thursdays 7pm Monroe County ARES/RACES net
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
KD2HYJ D-Star 444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

President's Thoughts

Welcome to May and the longer and warmer days. Great for operating outside! Of course, mowing the lawn does interfere with that, but the lawn will still be there tomorrow, right?

May 10th is the date for the 2025 Armed Forces Cross Band Test in which amateurs can contact U.S. military stations all around the country and world (see the earlier article). It is a fun event and gets you some great practice working split. We transmit on our frequencies and listen for the military stations on their allocated frequencies. All legal, and good practice for operating DXpeditions and learning more about your own radio. It is kind of weird not hearing the station you are talking to on the same frequency you are transmitting on, but it works well. So, I hope you can give it try.

Field Day is getting closer (last weekend in June) and plans are beginning to hatch for our event at the Big M Game Club, working with the Drumlins ARC. Watch the June Smoke Signal for last minute details and attend the club meetings to get involved. If you want to be part of the planning, let me know and I will let you know when it happens. It is a great weekend for amateur radio and our club excels at having a good time!! Be sure to get your Field Day shirt order in by the May meeting for June pick up.

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

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

kb2nci@gmail.com

585-430-9850

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

The Amateur's Code☐ Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)☐The Radio
☐Amateur is:

☐CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of
others.☐

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

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 ☐advice and counsel
to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of
others. These ☐are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

☐BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to ☐family, job,
school or community.☐

PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and ☐community.