



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

May 2023

www.siarc.us

Looks like May will arrive wet like March exited. Hopefully we get some nice weather to enjoy the flowers we are due to see.

Our **next meeting** will be on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at the Ontario County Safety Training Center on County Road 48, Canandaigua, and begins at 7:30pm. The meeting follows the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm. The program is to be determined. 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 #786 this week. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

Congratulations to Wes W2WES on attaining his General Class License in April. Way to GO!! Enjoy your new privileges on HF and new (to him) radio!! Ask him about it. Any upgrades I missed? Let me know.

The April program was by Dave N2EZY and covered amateur radio in 1953, the year the club was formed. Very interesting, with notable topics: changes in privileges and licensing, radio technology and demographics. Thanks, Dave.

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?

The Drumlins Hamfest was held on Saturday, April 22 in Palmyra. It was fun to see so many faces and catch up with what has been going on in their lives. Looking forward to 2024!!

The Wild Water Derby in Shortsville was held Saturday, April 29 and it was nice to have the rain hold for the day. It was cool enough without rain making it worse. The following hams participated in scoring and safety communications: WA2SSJ, KB2FSB, WB2RRE, N1PTB, KD2DNO, KB2KBY, WB2VMR, KA2HQZ, K2TJW, W2ODD, KB2NCI. These hams were from Monroe, Wayne, Steuben, Yates and Ontario counties. Thanks to all for helping with the event and safety. The first picture is of Dave's net control station:









Upcoming Events

For all of you not going to Dayton Hamvention, we will be holding the next Breakfast on Saturday, May 20 at 8am at the Villager Restaurant, South Main St, Canandaigua. All are welcome. The RACES training session at the EOC will start at 9:30am that day.

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, Canandaigua. 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.

June 24 and 25 is the annual ARRL Field Day [Field Day \(arrrl.org\)](http://arrrl.org) weekend. We get together with our ham friends from Drumlins ARC of Wayne County and have a great time. The location has not been determined for this year, but will be soon. We are looking at a time for a planning meeting, so watch your emails for details. The club will be subsidizing the cost of one Field Day shirt per member (your cost is \$15) so if you want to order one, let me know by the May 10 meeting (email or in person) so I can place one big order. You can pay me at pickup. See [Store \(arrrl.org\)](http://arrrl.org) for details on the shirt.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in 7th Call Area, Indiana, Delaware, New England, Canadian Prairies, Arkansas, and many others. See the May QST pages 73 and 88 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!

May 13 is the annual **Armed Forces Day Cross Band Test on HF**. See [Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test \(arrrl.org\)](http://arrrl.org) for details. It is a fun way to practice working split and make some military contacts.

The ARRL is sponsoring a yearlong 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.arrrl.org for details.

Hamfests in the Future:

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

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

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:

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

Shortsville Fire Department Parade, June 16—help will be needed. See Tom KB2NCI

Musselman Ironman, Geneva and Seneca County, July 9—help will be needed. See Tom KB2NCI

Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter, August 5—help will be needed. See Tom KB2NCI

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. See Dave KB2KBY

Mark your calendars to help out.

The next scheduled Admin Meeting will be on Thursday, May 18 at 9am at the Safety Training Center. Among others, topics will be the training session on May 20. 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 9:30am for all interested RACES members. Details will follow. The goal is to hold these exercises during the odd months of the year. This session follows the Breakfast at 8am at the Villager Restaurant.

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 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.

The FCC is considering a **change to the amateur allocation in the 60m band**. Currently we have 5 channels with max power of 100 watts ERP and it is proposed to change to 15khz of continuous bandwidth with 9 (yes, nine) watts ERP. Complete information can be found at [ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band](#)

Odd and Ends

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 her done”. The complete article is in the May 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 \(arrl.org\)](#)

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 #786 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) N2MPE
3993.5kHz 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 (except 4th) 9pm Monroe County 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—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

We are entering a busy time of year in amateur radio. As you can see above, there are many opportunities to get out and operate in the field, spend time with friends, and help our communities. Between Field Day, public service events and hamfests, there is something for everyone. And these things are available for all interests and levels of hams. I hope you will take this time to find some new aspects of the hobby that may interest you and explore them. I encourage you to use these events to make new friends. We have several new members and they are looking for you as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

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^[1] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[1] 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.