



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

June 2024

www.siarc.us

As I write this, I am on vacation visiting our son in South Dakota. It has been a fun trip and we have covered many miles. We will be home early June.

Arrived home last evening and the lawn needs serious attention. Great to be home.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. All are welcome. Our program is TBD. We will also be discussing the Field Day operation at the Big M Gun Club, Clifton Springs. I hope to see you all thereQ!

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 #1000 on March 26, a few days after our 4 year anniversary on March 17. Paul, AA2AV, has prepared and submitted an article for QST about the net. We hope it will be published in the next few months. Thank you to all who have checked in over the last 4 years. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The program in May was by Steve WB2VMR and covered the new CHIRP programming and some of the new Baofeng hand held radios. Thanks, Steve.

We held the quarterly breakfast at the Villager Restaurant on May 4 and it was attended by 11. It was a lively group and we look forward to the next one in August.

Any report on the AWA Spring Meet and Auction?

Anyone participate in the Armed Forces Day Cross Band test?

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

ARRL Field Day is coming up soon, June 22 and 23, and we will be operating with our friends from the Drumblins ARC. The local event will be held at the Big M Gun Club, 1549 CR 43, Clifton Springs. Those interested, will probably meet for breakfast at 8am Saturday. We will begin set up at 10am and will need 10 to 15 to do it safely. Please reply to Rich's KC2TNJ email if you can help with set up or come during the day Saturday. There will be more detailed information coming out soon. Operating begins at 2pm and will run into and maybe through the night. We usually start to break down around 10am on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend for as much or a little as you want or can. The talk in frequency will be the WA2AAZ 146.745- (71.9) repeater. Our event is posted on the ARRL Field Day Locator. See their website to look us up. I hope to see you all there!!

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

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on July 10, 2024. 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.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in Kentucky and West Virginia, ARRL International Digital Contest, ARRL VHF Contest, ARRL Kids Day, ARRL FIELD DAY, lots of Parks on the Air stations, and many others. See the June QST pages 80 and 94 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!

Our annual support for the Shortsville Fire Department Parade on Friday, June 14, is coming up soon. **I still need 6 or so operators** for this effort so please contact me if you can help. We meet around 4pm near the Fire Hall and deploy from 4:45 to around 7pm to help the entries get lined up in the proper order. We use UHF simplex with hand held radios and it goes well. I hope to hear from you soon.

I continue to solicit operators for the 2024 public service events and I look forward to hearing from and working with all of you. If you don't get an email from me and want to help, please contact me directly. (kb2nci@gmail.com)

Upcoming Public Service activities for 2024 (as of this date):

Tour De Cure, June 8 (new route into Ontario County), see www.rochesterham.org to sign up

Shortsville Fire Department Parade, June 14

Musselman Ironman Triathlon, Geneva and Seneca County, July 14-volunteer at [Register to volunteer with IRONMAN via VolunteerLocal](#)

Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter, Phelps, August 3

Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua, September 8

Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County, October 6

Pumpkin Patrol, Thruway Bridges, October 30 and 31

We are fortunate to be invited to help with all of these events, so please make time next year to help as much as you can. It provides many opportunities to practice our skills to fulfill our mandate for the Amateur Radio Service from the FCC.

The Tour De Cure event is happening on Saturday, June 8 and is based out of the FLCC campus in Canandaigua. They have 20 hams signed up to help but there is room for many more and it would be great for several SIARC members to be part of the event in our own back yard. Go to www.rochesterham.org, public service tab to sign up

Learn It, Build It, Fix It (LIBIFI) Classes are opportunities for adults to learn about vacuum tube technology while building and/or repairing their equipment. For over half a decade, the AWA Educational Institute has been the premier source of hands-on technical education designed for Do It Yourself (DIY) electronics enthusiasts.

[2024 AWA LearnitBuilditFixit Classes](#)

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

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.

Steve WB2VMR and Charley KC2UAC attended Department of Homeland Security Exercise at the State Training Facility in Oriskany last week and I believe they both completed their AUXCOMM Task Books. I look forward to hearing from them about the experience.

Steve WB2VMR held an organizational ARES meeting in May. All interested parties should have attended. If you would like to join, contact Steve at sbenton2@rochester.rr.com

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 585-924-0752. 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 the roster 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 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.

Odd and Ends

The Roc City Net Hamfest will be Saturday, August 24, 2024, at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon. See <http://roccitynethamfest.com> for details.

MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

04/26/2024

Updated 4:26:24 8:00 pm EDT with additional statement from Martin F. Jue, K5FLU.

MFJ Enterprises, Inc founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vecronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.

In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.

Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have "a lot of stock on hand." They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years. He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members, and loyal QST readers:

"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ.

MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"

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.

ALL HAMS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE WELCOME.

08 JUNE 2024

1PM-8PM



50/50 RAFFLE, PRIZES, AND MORE

ADMISSION - \$15.00 (CASH ONLY)

PAY ON ARRIVAL

RSVP TO ECRMG@W2RBC.COM

HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, AND MORE AT 3-6PM

SNACKS, POP AND BOTTLED WATER THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

TRUNK SALES

HF STATION ONSITE

TALK: 146.520 (SIMPLEX)

DON'T FORGET YOUR LAWN CHAIR!

DIRECTIONS FROM BUFFALO NIAGARA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

TAKE I-90 W AND US-219 S TO NEW ARMOR DUELLS RD/NEW ARMOUR RD IN ORCHARD PARK.

TAKE THE EXIT TOWARD NY-240/NY277/ARMOR DUELLS RD/CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK

FROM US-219 S TAKE NY-277 S TO YOUR DESTINATION

MORE INFO ON
EASTCOASTREFLECTOR.COM



W2ECR

EAST COAST REFLECTOR

MARTIN LODGE SHELTER, CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK

6121 CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD

ORCHARD PARK, NY 14127

COORDINATES: 42.7136' N, -78.7439' W

BIT.LY/ECRPARTY

To gain some more knowledge on Matching Networks, see Rich WB2JLR's article in the March/April issue of QEX magazine pages 19-21 entitled: Add Matching Networks, Attenuator Pads and Transformers [QEX \(pagesuite.com\)](https://pagesuite.com). Way to go Rich!

Preparation Underway for Severe Spring Weather

The severe weather season (March through May) is fast approaching, and [National Weather Service](#) (NWS) offices across the country are getting ready.

Warning Coordination Meteorologist Brandon Peloquin at the Wilmington, Ohio, NWS office said many of the NWS offices across the country meet with partner organizations in the spring to make plans for the weather ahead.

"Amateur radio operators and weather spotters are extremely important, and we could not do what we do without them," he said. "In fact, many of the watches and warnings issued are made because weather spotters provided critical information."

Peloquin said that Doppler radar is a great tool for tracking storms, but weather spotters have a different vantage point and can see things that radar can't.

Severe Weather Awareness Weeks are scheduled by each state and usually occur during March to remind and educate communities about severe weather seasonal threats and how to avoid them. The NWS [SKYWARN®](#) Storm Spotter Program is a volunteer program with almost 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. Spotter training is available at the state level and is offered several times each year, and classes can be found [at this link](#). Every December, NWS and ARRL hold [SKYWARN Recognition Day](#) to honor all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions during severe weather.

Amateur radio is a strong tool for community resilience during times of severe weather and other emergencies and is useful for public service throughout the year. Those interested in using their license privileges to serve others are encouraged to participate in their local Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) groups. Find out how at www.arrl.org/ares.

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. 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 \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org)

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has designated **14.300 mhz** 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.

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 May/June issue covers many topics, including articles on USB Basics, Six Ways Field Day can Prepare you for Emergency Communications, Ladder Safety, 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](http://arrl.org). 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.

W2ACC has repeaters up in Romulus 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. The 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 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. 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 **#1021** 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) W2ARM	Thursdays 7pm Monroe County ARES/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

FIELD DAY is upon us. This is always a fun event and great learning experience for all hams and Drumlins and SIARC members in particular. We will be holding the joint effort on June 22 and 23 at the Big M Gun Club on County Road 43 in Clifton Springs. Talk in is on the 146.745- (71.9) repeater. Set up begins at 10am on Saturday and we will begin to break down around 9am on Sunday. This is a great time to work and play with club members to learn more about each other and amateur radio. We do antenna and station set up, computer data entry of the contacts, have lots to eat and laughs to compliment the weekend. And we make a bunch of rapid fire contacts with stations across the United States and Canada, and sometimes a DX station or two! It is a very casual event and you can come and go as much as you like, but of course, the more time you spend there, the more you get out of it. It is also a great place to bring your own equipment that you would like to set up and try out with lots of helpers around to offer all the best suggestions for working that long off ham. The clubs will provide some food, snacks and soft beverages, but feel free to bring your own to compliment the assemblage (Please no alcohol). There will be more details coming out in the next couple of weeks and we will spend a good deal of time at the June 12 meeting going over the event. You can see www.arrrl.org for complete rules and suggestions for the weekend. See you in Clifton Springs!

Have Fun and 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

585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

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

^[1]_{SEP} CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.^[1]_{SEP}

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.