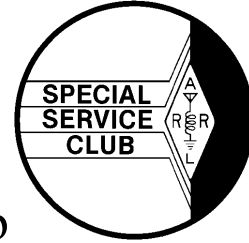




Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

July 2020

www.siarc.us

Well, it looks like the Finger Lakes made it to Phase 3 on June 12 and we are waiting to go into Phase 4 (soon??). Until then, we still need to social distance and wear a mask when out in public. Especially while on county property.

Remember to stay 1 wavelength at 144 MHz apart.

Our next meeting will be our annual Parking Lot Mobile/Portable Show and Tell. We will meet at 7:30pm, stay outside for the duration and not hold a business meeting. Since we are on county property, it is necessary to wear a mask and do your best to social distance. If you are not feeling well, please stay home. There will be VE testing at 6:30, pre-registration only. The safety measures need to be adhered to inside the building as well, and I ask that you not enter the building except to help with the testing session or use the restroom. We are there at the pleasure of the Emergency Management Office and these are their guidelines. I am looking forward to seeing all of you after all of these weeks. See you on the 8th!

We will NOT have a meeting in August. Club elections are in September. All positions are open.

Past Events

Our June meeting was a joint Zoom/repeater event. I think it went well, except for on my end. My computer decided to not allow me to enter uppercase characters, so I was unable to log in. (I was on a different computer that did not have email, so I could not just click on the url).

Upcoming Events

The following is a list of events that I am aware of. If there others, please send the information to me and I can send it to the group. Many of these I got from the ARRL website. All of these are subject to change because of the Covid-19 situation. The VE testing I have listed is based on their websites and may change. Contact them before you go just for that.

Batavia/Alexander, NY Hamfest—July 18, VE testing possible, pre-register
Drumlins Fox Hunt—July 19—contact Bill KD2DNO if interested
RadioCom Hamfest, Utica—July 26—VE testing
Tompkins County Hamfest, Trumansburg—August 1—No VE testing
Roc City Hamfest, Log Cabin Restaurant, Macedon—August 29—VE testing
Bike MS Roc the Ride, Rochester—RARA website to sign up to help--September 12
Lancaster Hamfest, Lancaster—September 12—VE??
Elmira Hamfest—September 26—VE testing
Pumpkin Patrol, Thruway bridges—October 30 and 31
Northeast HamXposition, Marlborough, MA—November 6,7, 8

As you can see, even with the virus situation, Summer and Fall will be very busy with ham activities. Have Fun and help out with an event if you can!!

Our **next VE Session** is scheduled for July 8 at 6:30. Pre-registration is required because of the corona virus guidelines. Contact Russ N2IZV at rcharris@msn.com if you would like to be his list of examinees. Masks and social distancing are required. He will also need VEs.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: 13 Colonies QSO party, North American RTTY QSO party, IARU HF World Championship, CQ Worldwide VHF contest, RSGB IOTA contest, and many others. See the July QST pages 74 and 85 and the WA7BNM website. <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/> 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!

Field Day Report

First, thanks to Don N2VDE and Rich KC2TNJ for their work on organizing our separate Field Day event. They provided us with very useful information on the event and logging.

The annual ARRL Field Day event was a little different this year. SIARC and Drumlins did not operate together. Instead, there were many individuals operating on their own, many from home or in their yards with a portable set up. The following are reports I have received as of “press” time.

Field Day 2020

I started operating at 1400 Saturday and ran until 0300 Sunday morning. I picked it back up a little after 0700. My understanding was that if you had set your antennas and gear prior to the start at 1400 on Saturday you had to end at 1400 Sunday. I ran right up to 1400 Sunday.

Amy had gone to her sister’s cottage for the weekend so I was home alone to participate in Field Days 2020 - social distancing style. I ordered food from the local pizza joint, stayed up all night playing radio and had a great time.

I made a total of 186 contacts, all phone/voice, operating on 80, 40 and 20 meters and a few on 10m. I mostly used the hunt and pounce technique but I did call CQ a couple of times and had a bunch of fun with that. It was a challenge to log contacts and handle the “pile up” at the same time. I’m just not set up for that type of operating. If I was going to operate like this again I would have to invest in the correct mike and foot switch to handle the task.

So, Field Day 2020 certainly was unique. I had fun and made a bunch of contacts but it just wasn’t the same. I missed setting up and operating with the club, just the overall camaraderie and of course the food.....

Rig - IC-7600 100w

Antennas: EFHW in an Inverted L configuration @ 50ft

Center Fed 40m dipole @ 22ft. - the CF dipole had a great SWR across the entire voice portion of the band. However, the noise floor was much higher than EFHW and did not perform as well.

73 KD2PER

Hi Tom. Usually I'm off vacationing somewhere during Field Day but we were home this year. I operated from home, mostly on 80 meters, using regular AC power and 100 watts to a dipole, I was on for 4 hours and worked 250 stations, 50 using FT8 and the rest using Sideband. The activity level was impressive. There were tons of Class 1D stations like myself, and it was nice that the last minute rule change allowed us to work each other.

I think the high activity was for 2 reasons. First we've been cooped up for months so we're all eager to do something. And secondly, in a typical Field Day there are half a dozen guys standing under a tarp watching one guy call CQ. This year we're all at home and on the air.

73,

Rich WB2JLR

30 CW contacts. From Russ WA2LTH

I set up a fan dipole up in the yard, hooked up my Yaesu FT 857D to commercial power and over several hours Saturday and Sunday, made 48 contacts with my 80 watts. Mostly on 20m and 40m but 2 contacts on 10m. Made contacts with stations all over the US but mostly in a belt from New Jersey to Colorado with one to West Central Florida. It was great to hear so many 1D and 1E stations, although it was surprising to hear so many STRONG 1E stations (emergency power). It was fun and the weather worked out quite well. I will look forward to a group effort next year (hopefully). I missed the camaraderie and food.

From Tom KB2NCI

RACES and ARES

From the County Administrators news letter (thanks to John WA2SSJ for keeping us in their minds):

Emergency Management

Due to Covid-19, Ontario and Wayne County RACES operators, and others, will not congregate on June 27 and 28, set up equipment, invite supervisors and the public to attend, conduct license examinations, and so on, all as part of participation in Field Day, a national exercise in emergency preparedness. Prior years have seen temporary communications facilities established at the White Springs and Varick Fire Departments, Safety Training Facility, Geneva City Hall and Gannett Hill Park, among others; but this year hams are encouraged to set up and operate individually from homes and other locations, maintaining social distancing and other virus safety measures, while still establishing two way radio contact with as many other stations in North America as possible. Totals will be aggregated for the Ontario and Wayne groups, and hopefully this dispersed approach will keep everyone safe while testing emergency capabilities in a different format.

Public Service events that I know of (or believe I have the correct dates for) are as follows:
Bike MS Roc the Ride, Rochester, September 12
Pumpkin Patrol, Ontario County, October 30 and 31

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, and would like to become a member of RACES/ARES, please see or contact me.

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

Vern K2VJK is assisting the estate of Gary Hoffman AA2IZ in the disposition of his ham equipment. We will post here what is available and please contact Vern about anything you are interested in.

Here is a list of some of the items available. I believe the amplifier has been sold.

Here's the bigger equipment:

Ten Tec Corsair II	350
Remote VFO	125
Corsair II must sell before Remote VFO	
Ten Tec Corsair	250
Yaesu 8800	125
Yaesu 1802	75
Heathkit Amp w/ new tubes	475
PolyPhasers and LNA	50
MFJ tuner	75
Heathkit tuner	150
CDE 45 rotor and control	50
Rotor needs repair	
Astron 12A PS	40
Cushcraft X7 F beam	300
Light weight 3 section tower	300

These two items will have to be taken down by buyer

New computer memory	35
---------------------	----

There is much, much more. Prices are somewhat negotiable. Cash please. If you want pictures of any of these items, please email me. I intend to list them in other places shortly, so I am giving local hams the first choice, as Gary would have wanted.

73 K2VJK

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 the phonetic alphabet, building a portable antenna mount, shopping for a mobile radio and many others. It is

available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership.

-- DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB FOX HUNT

Sunday July 19.

Repeater 146.685 (pl tone 71.9)

Simplex 146.490 (search frequency)

Check in starts at 0845 hrs

Hunt starts at 0900 hrs and will end by around 12 noon

The "Fox" will be located somewhere in Western Wayne County/Eastern Monroe County/Northern Ontario County. A signal and hint will be transmitted approx every ten minutes.

First to find the Fox will win a gift certificate to any Tom Wahl's Restaurant for \$30. Second place will get a \$20 Tom Wahl's Gift Certificate.

Any non-licensed persons wanting to join are welcome. You can program the above frequency's but remember you can not transmit on them. You can call on the cell phone's listed below. Social Distancing and Face Masks are required during any personal interface. Please be safe.

**My cell is 315-744-0434 and Jeff is 315-879-1588
If the Fox is not found, Jeff and Bill will have an amazing gourmet dinner at Tom Wahl's.**

STANLEY REPEATER:

Dave W2ACC reports that the KD2NOL 146.985- (82.5) repeater is up and running in Dundee and gives very good coverage for Seneca County. This is the former frequency for the N2LSJ repeater in Penn Yan.

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. 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
5	5

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.

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. cancelling 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

Since March 17, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the 146.820 repeater, nightly at 8pm (except Sundays). It was intended as a net for hams to keep in contact with others. It has been very successful, having an average number of check ins of 17 and with a high one night of 25. Lately the numbers have dropped off a bit as people feel more comfortable getting out, so we may be suspending it for the time being. I will let you know. If we hit a second wave of infections in our area, I will restart it. It has be lots of fun to participate and hear from so many. Thanks, Tom

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 VA Hospital
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 (plus DMR, Fusion, P25 and NXDN)
KD2HYJ D-Star	444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

President's Thoughts

Hello to the summer Covid-19 times. It will be a much different summer than any of us have experienced. Almost everything we are used to doing has been cancelled due to the virus and many of us are getting itchy to get back to "normal". I think normal will be different than we remember, but if we go slow and follow the health guidelines, we can get there.

I hope you all had a chance to enjoy Field Day. I did miss the group event and seeing the familiar and not so familiar faces and hanging out together as a bunch of hams. Although we come from different backgrounds and experiences, we come together to make a successful weekend and we learn a lot from it. This year, I learned a lot, but by myself. It was fun putting the station together and seeing how well (or not) it worked. It was great to hear so many stations filling the bands and working around each other. I was even able to work (my first contact) N3FJP, whose logging software many of us used. Pretty cool.

Anyway, do what you can this summer to enjoy the great hobby of ham radio. Keep in contact with your friends and make new ones. We will get through this time and come out on the other side as a stronger community. Stay Safe, my friends.

Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio 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 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.