



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

September 2025

www.siarc.us

After a wet spring and very hot August, the past few days preceding September have been spectacular. I hope you had a chance to enjoy it!

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025** and begins at 7:30pm in the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. All are welcome!! There will be Laurel VE testing at 6:30pm that night. We will also hold club elections. The program is to be determined.

The club continues 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 #1341 last Friday, so thank you to all who have checked in since March 2020. I hope you all can join us.

Past Events

We did not have a meeting in August, but there was time to enjoy the out of doors and maybe get in a little operating. I know that Norm WB2GGM has been operating marine mobile on Honeoye Lake, in between tossing in the fishing line. I wonder what he is catching more of-- QSOs or Fish??

Several of us from SIARC and Drumlins assisted with course safety communications for the Phelps Sauerkraut Festival "Krauter" races, the morning of Saturday, August 2. It was a beautiful morning for the athletes running either a 5K or 20K race on the rolling hill course. We have helped with this event for several years, and they always appreciate our participation. We look forward to supporting them again in 2026. I would like to thank

those hams that volunteered: WB2VMR, WD2STK, KC2TNJ, W2LVP, W2ODD, KB2FSB, KC2TCM, KD2DNO and KB2NCI.

The next weekend, Steve WB2VMR, Paul KD2DO and myself assisted with the Mammoth March event in Letchworth State Park. Using simplex, and along with other hams from Monroe County, we provided safety communications for the 20-mile hike through the park. The cell phone coverage is very spotty there, so our equipment and skills provided a level of comfort and reassurance to the participants and park personnel that no one would not be left behind.

Our quarterly breakfast was held on Saturday, August 16 and there were 12 in attendance. Look for the next one to be in November.

Finally, the 2025 version of the Roc City Hamfest was held on Saturday, August 23 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon. It was very well attended and I even heard some of our members found some bargains there. Way to go!! I did not buy anything, but was able to visit with many friends from the present and the past. Tell us about your special finds!

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?

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 Finger Lakes Triathlon is being held on Sunday, September 7 out of Canandaigua. I have a full team signed up, but if anyone else wants to volunteer, we can find a spot for you, or to even observe one of the posts along the course. Contact me at kb2nci@gmail.com if you are interested.

**Lancaster Hamfest is Saturday Sept. 13th
being held at the Transit Drive In**

6655 S Transit Rd, Lockport, NY 14094 [Map and directions](#)

\$10 Admission Fee includes free tailgating with unlimited selling space

7am-til (get there early)

Food and refreshments

Talk-In W2SO 147.255+107.7

AG2AA 147.360+82.5 / W2RUI 146.820+107.2 LINKED SYSTEMS

there is A very large AREA FOR TAILGATING.

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

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on September 10, 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. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), RSGB SSB Field Day, QSO parties in Tennessee, New Jersey, Texas, Iowa, New Hampshire, Maine, State Parks on the Air in Ohio and Wisconsin, Washington State Salmon Run, Route 66 on the Air (9-6-25 to 9-14-25), ARRL EME Contest, ARRL 10GHz and up Contest, North American Sprint RTTY, AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party, and many others. See the September QST, pages 85 and 95 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!

In 44 days, the **PJ6Y Youth Dxpedition** will be underway on the island of Saba (IOTA NA-145). It is in the northeastern Caribbean Sea and is an opportunity for 12 to 14 young hams to gain experience at the highest level. I will suggest that the club send a donation as in investment in the future of amateur radio. See <https://pj6y2025.com> for more details.

These are the remaining Public Service events I know of. It has been a great and successful season. Thanks to all who gave up their time to assist in their communities!

September 7—Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua
October 5—Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County
October 30 and 31—Pumpkin Patrol, Thruway bridges

The following is from Mike N2MAK and concerns a special event he is working on for this summer-----**Something for us to talk about**-----*I've been working with Matt Brown K2EAG to try and organize some Parks on the Air (POTA) events across the state for the Erie Canal Bicentennial, Sept. 16-25, 2025.*

I'm on the Board of Directors for the Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA) and they are interested in doing something for this. I still need to work out the details to pitch it at the next Board meeting, but it'll likely involve a club-sponsored POTA outing on Saturday 9/20 or Sunday 9/21 at one of the many parks within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (POTA US-6532).

I wanted to see if SIARC was interested in doing something for this or even collaborating. I'd be happy to stop by a club meeting sometime or even setup a time to talk about it.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks!

73,

Mike Kennerknecht, N2MAK

SIARC will be supporting the Erie Canal Bicentennial celebration by activating the Swift's Landing Park, 4100 Hogback Rd, Palmyra, on four days: Tuesday September 16, Thursday September 18, Saturday and Sunday September 20 and 21. We will be opening this event up to the Drumlins ARC as well. This will be a "parks on the air" type of event and we will set up one to two HF portable stations in a pavilion there. The park is in the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor and so we will use **US-6532** for our designator and **K2BWK** as the call sign. There is not any commercial power, so we will be operating from batteries and using solar to keep them up. Exact times have yet to be determined but will be disseminated via a club email list. Everyone is welcome to attend and operate. You can bring your own equipment to try out as well and we would all enjoy seeing what you have to operate. Again, we are celebrating some of our local heritage, so this will be a fun event. The organizational committee consists of Bill KD2SER, Chris KE2DJR and Tom KB2NCI, but there is room for more, so let me know if you would like to help. More information will be available at the SIARC meeting on September 10. Anyone with skills at making a

Special Event QSL card would be appreciated. We would like to acknowledge the stations that contact us.

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.

September marks the 90th anniversary of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) which began in 1935. If you are interested in being better prepared to help in an emergency, please contact our Emergency Coordinator Steve Benton, WB2VMR.

READY · RESPONSIVE · RESILIENT



The next RACES meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, at 7pm in the Safety Training Center. All RACES members are encouraged to attend. We will be discussing the upcoming October 4th Simulated Emergency Test.

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. Training to Serve, Serving to Support!

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 and Items for sale

A **new emergency and weather alert system** is now available for New Yorkers. Through the free 333111 system, you'll receive text alerts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services about severe weather, significant power outages and shelter locations in your area. To receive these alerts, text 333111 and the county you wish to receive the alerts for (do not add the word "county" or any spaces or punctuation). You can add more than one county. If you are already signed up for NY-ALERT, you are all set. They will be the same messages. If you no longer wish to receive these messages, text STOP to 333111.

For sale are some antennas that were donated to the club by Charlie Escriva, KB2SOZ who now lives out of the area. These had been in his barn for a few years, so are not the best-looking packaging, but they have not been used. Whatever we get for them, goes into the treasury.

We have: one Antenna Specialists ASP 1450 Low Profile Mobile Antenna, 138-174 mHz with connector and cable, 3dB gain, 150 watts

Two Antenna Specialists ASP 690 Low Profile Rooftop Antennas 108-512 mHz with connector and cable

One Maxrad MNB5800 144-174 mHz antenna only

Make an offer on any or all of these and we can get together for the exchange.

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](#)

AND, it is important to keep your FCC registration postal and email address up to date. This will ensure that you receive correspondence from them promptly.

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. I purchased a golf shirt with logo and will wear it to the meeting on the 10th.

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 \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.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 Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30), 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 July/August issue covers many topics, including articles on Everyday Carry Your Handheld, POTA Activators and Hunters, Building a Ham Station Clock, 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 \(upstateham.com\)](http://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 #1341 last Friday 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
7281 kHz 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
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

It is hard to believe that summer is winding down and fall is approaching. September is usually a beautiful month to transition in, so I hope you can make the most of it.

September is also a good month to review your personal and radio emergency preparedness. Although we do not have the natural disasters (either types or frequency) that happen in other parts of the country, we get our own versions. The fire in the warehouse in Gorham this past Saturday is a good example of what we must be prepared for. What would you do if you had to evacuate your house in short notice? What would you take? Who would you call? What about your pets? Does your car have an adequate fuel supply? There are many things to ponder. Could you operate your radio and what repeaters would you monitor if you needed to be on the air? Things to consider.

On a more enjoyable front, the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal is this year and there will be a week of special event stations celebrating the event from September 16th through the 25th. As noted above, the club will be doing some operating at Swift's Landing Park in Palmyra on 4 of those days. Of course, you can do individual activations along the canal and in the heritage corridor on your own. Just be sure to see if you need a permit or permission to operate in your chosen spot. Options for operating can be found at <https://nycalanmap.com>. Get out there and have FUN.

Finally, **the club will be holding election** of officers at the September 10 meeting. If you have an interest in leadership, please be sure to get yourself nominated for one of the offices. All of them are up for election. It is your club. I encourage you to get involved to get the most out of the hobby!

There is still time left in the warm weather months to get radio-active, so dust off the equipment and get into the outdoors!!

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.