



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

October 2023

www.siarc.us

It will be sad to say good bye to Summer, but Fall can be nice too. And a bit cooler. Enjoy the colors!!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 13 at the Safety Training Center and will begin at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend. The program will be by Paul KD2DO and cover some more on Winlink and the like.

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 #881 last night. Thank you to all who have checked in over the last 3+ years. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

Our program in September was by Sandy KA2HQZ and covered some reminders for getting you and your family prepared for a disaster. Very useful information. Thanks, Sandy.

On September 10, 12 of us assisted with the Finger Lakes Triathlon. The courses followed very similarly to last time we helped so setting up was pretty easy. It was interesting working with a new organizer and race director and they want us back next year. So, keep September 8, 2024 open on your calendar. Many thanks to all who participated. We could have used a few more operators, so I hope you can be part of it next year. Hams this year were: W2ODD, KC2TNJ, W2LVP, KD2DNO, KD2TWM, WD2STK, WB2VMR, KB2FSB, WA2SSJ, KC2TCM, KD2LGE, KB2NCI, and Ontario, Wayne and Monroe counties were represented.

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

There are two events the last weekend of September that are looking for hams to assist. Wilmot Breakaway Ride on Saturday, September 30, see www.rochesterham.org and go to the public service tab to sign up.

Also, that weekend, is the Wineglass Marathon on Sunday October 1. The run goes from Bath to Corning and 3 more operators are needed. Contact Randy n1ptb@outlook.com to sign up.

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

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** is scheduled for November 8, 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.ssiarc.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.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in California, Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, **NEW YORK**, Illinois, the Collegiate QSO Party, ARRL School Club Roundup, ARRL EME Contest, and many others. See the October QST pages 72 and 84 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!

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.arrl.org for details.

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.

We are planning a **Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** for November 4, 2023. The SET will run in the morning and will test communications from the two EOC stations, the hospital stations and as many fire department areas as possible. Further information will be sent out by Steve WB2VMR, RACES Radio Officer.

Membership continues to be a topic of discussion in our meetings. We have several members that for one reason or another, are inactive with the group. Just because we are lucky enough to live in an area that does not get many “disasters”, it does not mean that we will be needed at all. Remember the train derailments from this summer and storms that went up the East and Southeast coastlines. Weather is changing and we are due for some kind of event. Practice really helps to make an activation smoother and more accurate. It would be good for all of us to get more involved with ARES/RACES so we can be prepared to help our communities. I hope you can join us or get more active.

RACES repeaters—The Yaesu repeater has been installed at Gannett Hill on 145.450 and it sounds and works great. The new repeater does not have a courtesy tone so wait for the tail to drop before transmitting. The Bridgecom repeater at Gannett Hill will be reprogrammed to be placed in service at the Geneva City Hall EOC site.

ARES membership—Steve has received forms from 17 so far and is encouraging all interested hams to join. ARES does not have the same strict membership rules that RACES does so is a little easier to join and help your community.

ICS Training—It is our goal to have all our members complete the following ICS courses: 100, 200, 700 and 800. All are available on line and increase your understanding of our place and how to work within the framework of Emergency Management.

AuxComm training---there will be an AuxComm training offered by the NYS Department of Homeland Security on November 14 to 16 in Oriskany, NY. There are 30 spots available and we have 4 from our group going, but there should be room for others. Contact Steve WB2VMR if interested.

If you were not aware, there will be a **Complete Solar Eclipse** next year on April 8 and our region is in the direct path for Totality. It is felt that there will be a large influx of people to the Finger Lakes, wanting to get a good look (be sure to wear the correct sunglasses for this!!). Much of the local infrastructure will be stressed by the numbers here so we must be prepared. Ongoing talks with all parts of emergency services are happening. Stay tuned for more information. Maybe Tony KD2HNI will be kind enough to do a program for us on the eclipse?

The next **RACES meeting** will be held on Thursday, October 19 at 9am in the Safety Training Center. A major part of the meeting will center on the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which we will hold in November. All RACES members are encouraged and welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining ARES/RACES, please attend or contact us as well.

Public Service Events for 2023 include:

-Wilmot Cancer Institute Wilmot Breakaway Ride--- September 30 (the 75 mile course will come down as far as Canandaigua and Bloomfield after beginning in Henrietta)—contact Mike KC2NM at mikemoore@ieee.org if you are interested in volunteering, or go to www.rochesterham.org the public service tab and sign up there.

-Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County—October 1—Randy N1PTB could use a few more operators to ride the event bus transportation for the event. Having a D-Star handheld is very helpful. Contact him at n1ptb@outlook.com

-Pumpkin Patrol, NYS Thruway overpasses, October 30 and 31—help will be needed. Contact Dave KB2KBY at kb2kby@rochester.rr.com

Mark your calendars to help out.

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 ARES 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](#)

Member Profile and Picture

No volunteers for October. Anyone for November and beyond?

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 'er 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.

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 September/October issue covers many topics, including articles on Universal Coordinated Time, the Solar Eclipse QSO Party, Foxhunting Basics 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:

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. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information.

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 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 #881 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) 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
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

The Club Election of officers was held in September and by unanimous vote, the current board continues into the next 12 months. Please feel free to participate in the club activities even if you are not on the board.

I want to thank the following for the work on behalf of the club:

Vice President---Sandy KA2HQZ, Secretary—John WA2SSJ, Treasurer--- Stan WM3D,
Directors—Wes---W2WES, Dave---N2EZY, Doug---KD2LGE, Todd--- W2ODD and Steve---
WB2VMR, Liaison to Drumlins ARC---Jay—KC2TCM.

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!
Get Active/Get Involved!

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

kb2nci@arrrl.net

585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

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

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

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

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

^[SEP]BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to ^[SEP]family, job,
school or community.^[SEP]

PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and ^[SEP]community.