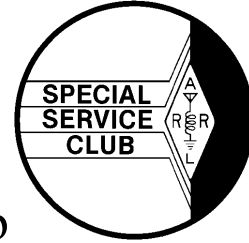




Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

November 2018

www.siarc.us

Wow, November already. Feels like we just left summer. I hope you can spend the upcoming season with family and friends.

Our **next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:30pm** at the Ontario County Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua and the program will be by Carla Jordan, Associate Planner for the County Planning Department and she will speak on the County's Communication System. All are welcome. The meeting will follow the 6:30pm Laurel VE testing session.

Past Events

Many thanks to Steve, WB2VMR, for putting together the program in October on backup power sources on such short notice. I really appreciate his bailing me out.

The Board of Directors met before the October meeting and the following was discussed.

--Board had approved the purchase of a refurbished Kenwood TKR 750 VHF repeater as a back up for the 146.820 at the VA for \$450. At this meeting, the Board also approved the purchase of a pre-amp for about \$75, to be installed before delivery by Dave, W2ACC. This repeater will be programmed with the following frequencies, to be used as needed: 146.820, 145.450 and 147.090. Total price for this project was \$529.

--Discussion about the Stanley KD2HVC D-Star repeater and possibly adding analog capability to make it more usable. More details to come.

--Activities for the club for the next year: outside HF operating in parks or other locations.

Fox Hunts

Field Day location—Jay suggested the possibility of using property at the Finger Lakes

- Racino in Farmington. Tony will check with the Hopewell Fire Department. Other ideas?
- Club Christmas Party will be held at the AWA in Bloomfield again this year on December 12.
 - January 9 will be the annual club Flea Market.
 - Program suggestions were: Kit Building, Antenna Building, Tutorials on the new Chinese Radios, Budget Radios, Hamfest reports

Our next Board meeting will be held in February before the regular meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events

Our next Breakfast will be on Saturday, November 10, 2018, at 8am at the Villager Restaurant, 245 S. Main St, Canandaigua. All are welcome. Please let me know if you are coming so the restaurant can seat us. I have heard from one that is coming. Anyone else?

Our annual Christmas party will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 6:30pm at the AWA Museum in Bloomfield. More details in December.

Our **next VE Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on November 14, 2018, and Russ N2IZV is always looking for Volunteer Examiners. This session will be before the regular SIARC meeting at the Safety Training Center. Contact Russ at rcharris@msn.com if you can help.

These sessions have been very successful and are a great way to introduce prospective members to our club and RACES organization. They occur during odd months and Russ needs at least 3 other examiners (extra class preferable) to be present. The Drumlins ARC offers VE sessions on the even months. Contact WD2STK at wd2stk@yahoo.com for testing or to help as a VE.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: ARRL CW and SSB Sweepstakes, several 160 meter contests, ARRL EME contest, Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party and many others. See the November QST pages 90 and 99 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!

From the County Administrators newsletter.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ontario County RACES teams activated stations at Clifton Springs and FF Thompson Hospitals on the morning of October 6 as part of the national Section Emergency Test of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The NYS Department of Health promotes hospital stations and amateur radio services for off-the-grid communications in the event of emergency. In this drill, eleven operators participated, and software and station configurations were updated and tested with voice and digital communications to the Safety Training Facility, where the Radio Officer and a third team coordinated the exercise.

All of the equipment to build the HF Go Kit has arrived and is at the EOC. Contact Steve WB2VMR to help with this project.

From the desk of Radio Officer, Scott Teresi, N2UMH:

• On October 11, 2018, Ontario County ARES/RACES had its first unannounced request for assistance since the group reformed sometime back in 2003. We have been fortunate most of our work has been in preparation, training, and practice.

John Park, WA2SSJ, has already provided most of the details. The following are additional pieces to the story and lessons learned. You can find more detailed information on the VA Crisis Line

here https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/veterans-crisis-line.asp. What is important to know is that this nationwide service has call centers all across the country and the headquarters is located here at the Canandaigua VA Hospital. The Ontario County Sheriffs office has a special working relationship with the Crisis Line, and the 911 center works with them on a daily basis.

On the night in question, the Crisis Line had contacted Ontario County 911 to see if they can help. At the time it was believed that there were no regular communications available for that part of Florida and that only amateur radio communication was available. I am not sure how well the phone, cell, and public safety radio services were working but at the time of the call no amateur radio net, that we know of, was up and operational. No problem! John did what was needed and got the message out there without needing to use amateur radio equipment. Remember, in our Emcomm training we may be called upon to help communicate and use non-ham equipment. While 911 could have handled the request, they were busy and not sure how involved the request would be. We were able to take something off of the hands of the busy 911 center and help them out. So plain and simple, great job John and thanks to everyone else who checked in! It is not likely that we will get many requests like that in the future, but we know we can handle them if they do come!

Lessons Learned

1. Always be prepared.

The request for help came under what emergency management would call "clear skies." A clear sky event is one that occurs somewhere else but also effects your area. During the NYS DOH exercise in 2017, the department of transportation talked about clear sky events with the Thruway. A freak lake effect storm can close down a significant section of the I-90. Counties not experiencing snow, and clear skies can become inundated with motorists using their local roads to get to their destinations or filling up motels to spend the night. What occurred on October 11, 2018, was a clear sky event. Hurricane Michael was nowhere near us and not scheduled to affect us, but it did. At the very least if people in one area of the country are cut off after a disaster and friends and family outside the disaster zone want to contact them amateur radio may be the only way to get a message back and forth. That means in Ontario County YOU are the means for officials, friends, and family to get a message delivered. It is part of what we signed up for as amateur radio operators dedicated to providing community service and emergency support.

When a large storm or other disaster threatens any part of the U.S., or anywhere else in the world, try to stay informed and at least keep track if emergency amateur radio services have been activated or not. Think situational awareness and how would you get a message to and from a disaster zone.

2. We had an excellent response, but more is better.

The 911 center has between 6 and 8 people on per shift. The EMO has 5 or 6 full-time employees. When we can have 10 people in less than a half hour, we are more than doubling the workforce of either of those agencies. Even for a working structure, most fire departments will not do much better in the same time period. So our response was excellent! However, if we are ever asked to cover everything on our list at once, we would need about 40 people! That does not even count relief. Obviously, we have a lot of work ahead of us to swell our numbers and to work closely with the groups in surrounding counties.

3. Span and Control.

With ten people "responding" ICS dictated at least 2 should be acting as a supervisor. We need people willing to step up to serve as team leaders. More on this later as we continue to grow and develop but something to keep in mind as we go forward.

4. Group activation

The hyper-reach worked well even though the contact list on it needs updating (which will be done). But for the sanity of 911, we will give them a list of contacts to call first. Then hyper-reach will be used to tell everyone to get on the air and what frequency to use. We will try to avoid using messages that will have everyone calling 911. Remember when in doubt go on the 145.450 repeater and start up an informal net at any time you think there is a problem (power outage, severe weather, etc.). If the repeater is down, go simplex on the output.

5. Never work alone.

We are a team and will be there to support each other. Even when a full response is not required, we can all monitor in case additional help or expertise is needed later. The VA/911 request is a prime example. Yes, only one person was truly needed to handle the task. It was nice to know there was a group ready to help out if more was required.

There is a lot to be learned from even this relatively minor activation, but I hope it emphasizes the importance of the work we have volunteered to do.

Scott, N2UMH

Pumpkin Patrol report.

On the evenings of October 30 and 31, amateur radio operators from Ontario and Wayne counties manned the posts at 7 overcrossings of the Thruway, from 8pm to midnight. These 21 individuals were an extra pair of eyes for the local law enforcement to help prevent goblins from tossing anything onto the traffic below. The Pumpkin Patrol originated in 1976, when a tractor trailer was struck by an object thrown from above. The objective is to cover bridges from New York City to the Pennsylvania line. The patrol works with Troop T of the Thruway Authority/State Police and has been very successful in nearly eliminating this problem. Many thanks go to the Drumlins ARC for the use of the WA2AAZ 146.745 repeater for this cause. Dave, KB2KBY, organizes the group and assignments. Those amateurs volunteering in 2018 were: KA2HQZ, KA1CNF, KC2TNJ, KB2FSB, KD2DNO (2 nights), KD2LGE, N0EK (2 nights), WD2STK, KC2TCM, KD2LBM, N2IZV, W2WES, W2WBD, N2DIT, KD2FCX, KD2AVK, WE2LEW, AB2XM, KC2RZM, W2ODD (alternate, 2 nights), KB2NCI.

Also, 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 some experience as Net Control will be very beneficial. 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 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

I will have at the next meeting a price list for **SIARC shirts**. These will be available for purchase on your own through a location in Victor. The price for T-Shirts (logo only) will be about \$20 and for Polo shirts (logo and call sign) for about \$35.

Drumlins ARC has started a weekly rag chew net on the WA2AAZ 146.745- (pl 71.9) repeater. It is held on Tuesdays at 7pm and is open to all. Check in and see what is happening.

Also, SIARC has been donated some equipment that we cannot use, and so will offer to club members to purchase (going to the treasury) them. What doesn't sell, will be placed on Craig's list, etc.

Kenwood HT TR2600A, and speaker mic

Precision Apparatus S-55 wide band oscilloscope

Precision Paco Regulated Power Supply B-12

Eico Audio Generator model 377

Eico Signal Tracer model 147A

Precision Paco Vacuum Tube Voltmeter model V-70

Disc Drive Tower DAC series

ADI AR147 Transceiver

Remember the National Parks on the Air event? The ARRL is sponsoring another similar event called the International Grid Chase and the object is

during 2018 to make contacts with as many Grid Squares around the world as possible. See the ARRL website for details.
How many Grid Squares have you contacted?

December 11 started off a yearlong operating event commemorating NASA, similar to the National Parks on the Air event in 2016. See www.nasaontheair.wordpress.com for details. Could be a fun event to participate in. Anybody done any of this? A recent QST had a few articles on Portable operating. It is fun.

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. 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). He is also working on a 900mHz repeater in Stanley. Stay tuned for more details.

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

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
146.745- (71.9) WA2AAZ	Tuesdays, 7pm Drumlins ARC Weather 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
KD2HYJ D-Star	444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

President's Thoughts

After witnessing the destruction and mayhem caused by the weather in the past few weeks, I am reflecting on how relatively lucky we are to live in Western New York. The winters may be a little long and cold (oh yeah, we get a bit of snow), but we don't generally experience the disasters other parts of the country (or world for that matter) do. That said, we should still be prepared for emergencies. Having a back up food and energy supply, first aid knowledge, back up communications and other things, will someday be helpful for you, your family and neighbors. It is really only a matter of time. Fortunately, we have many resources to help us prepare. Take the time to find them and start the process of preparation.

See you on the 10th (breakfast) and 14th (meeting).

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.

