

SIARC meeting minutes, January 10, 2024

Attendees: Tom Sanders KB2NCI KC2TCM	Steve Benton WB2VMR	Jay Hamill
David Waters (visitor) Critchfield N2BH	Vern Kunes K2VJK	Bill
Steve Verzulli KA1CNF Federico KA2HQZ	Dave Hunter N3EZY	Sandy
Todd Coon W2ODD Rosato KD2AVK	JoAnne Estey KD2FCX	James
Dan McGregor KD2LBM Falletta W2TXB	Pat Welch KD2PER	Jerry
Sabrina Hamill WD2STK Rowlands WA2OFF	Jeff Williams KD2VRZ	Keith
Wes Mills W2WES		

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Tom KB2NCI

The November minutes were summarized by Tom, no additions or corrections

The Treasurer was absent, so Tom stated the balance in the club checking account stands at \$2869.42.

RACES/ARES—Steve WB2VMR states that RACES will be called out on Monday, April 8, 2024, to assist the county as back up communications for the Total Eclipse that will go right over our area. We have 8 members that have stated that they will be able to help that day. More will be needed. Steve has a meeting with the officials on January 17 and will learn then what they will want us to cover. At this time, Steve believes we will be asked to cover the following: Hopewell EOC station, 911 center, FF Thompson Hospital, Clifton Springs Hospital, Geneva General Hospital. We may be also activating the Geneva City Hall EOC. It was mentioned by the county earlier that they may want us to cover select spots overlooking the Thruway to watch for traffic issues. More information to come. It is estimated that there will be an additional 350,000 to 500,000 people in the area for this event and that cell phone usage will overload the system and services may be compromised to some extent. Steve solicited for more hams to become RACES/ARES members. The next RACES admin meeting will be on Thursday January 18 at 9am and then Training on Saturday, February 10 at 9am.

ARES—Steve continues to work with the ARRL Western New York Section Manager to establish an Emergency Coordinator for Ontario County. We were all under the impression that we had had one for years, but that was not the case. Steve has had several conversations with the Atlantic Division Director to see about moving this along.

Steve WB2VMR talked about the New EMO Director, John Yannotti and that he started in early December to take over for Jeff Harloff, who retired in July. John is a ham (technician) and he is very interested in keeping RACES active. We look forward to working with him.

Repeaters—Steve states the Yaesu Fusion repeaters (VHF and UHF on Gannett Hill) have been installed. Due to an oversight, the Fusion function on the VHF machine was not turned on, but will be in the future. The Bridgecom Fusion VHF repeater will replace the GE analog repeater at the Geneva City Hall station this spring and the SIARC Yaesu Fusion VHF repeater will be placed in the VA tower this summer. At this time, we do not have internet connectivity at any site, so the full Fusion usage is not available. Maybe in the future. Steve is still working on setting up the linking of the 146.820 to the 442.200. The Fusion repeaters have internal controllers so the process is a little more complex. Steve will contact John Kruk at Yaesu for help on this project. J.kruk@yaesu.com

Winter Field Day—January 27 and 28—we will set up 2 to 3 stations at the home of Tom KB2NCI in Victor on Saturday. Set up will begin at 10am and operating at 2pm. We will probably operate into the evening and if there is interest, Sunday morning before take down. There will be coffee, water and pizza. Those attending can bring whatever equipment they would like to try out, along with their favorite soft drinks and snacks. Everyone is welcome to come for whatever time period suits them. There will be a talk in station on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater.

Ham Radio Breakfast---next on Saturday, February 17 at the Villager Restaurant at 8am. All are welcome.

Summer Field Day---June 22 and 23—after a discussion and information presented by Jay KC2TCM, those in attendance agreed to go to the Big M Gun Club in Clifton Springs this year. The facility offers a pavilion, kitchen, bathrooms, electricity, clubhouse and is generator and 24 hour operating friendly. Jay stated that the fee is \$200 per day with \$100 being refunded after the weekend and the area is cleaned up to their approval. The two clubs would split the costs. Since Drumlins has already agreed to go to Gannett Hill, Jay will work on swaying them to join us at the Big M. Tom KB2NCI has already secured the EOC property for Field Day as a back up and will cancel that later in the spring after we are assured that we will be going to the Big M Gun Club. Jay will let Big M know at their February meeting of our intent.

Contests—Jay mentioned the All-January long Winter Heat 2024 which is a VHF and above simplex contest. See hamactive.com for details This contest uses all modes available.

The ARRL VHF contest is January 20 and 21

QST and the Contest Calendar cover most of the contests that are held throughout the year.

POTA remains at big nationwide and international event. Pat KD2PER said he made a POTA contact with a park in Barbados!!

Jeff KD2VRZ put up a speaker wire antenna, mostly on the ground and made a contact with the Canary Islands. Go Jeff!!

Steve WB2VMR did a short presentation on several new edition Baofeng hand held radios. Lots of improvement and upgrades to make them a nice addition to your inventory. All were under \$35 each.

Sabrina WD2STK stated the VE session tonight had two examinees and both attained the Technician license. She asked that all VEs update their current contact information with her.

Next Meeting will be on February 14 and the program will be by a representative from HamSCI and cover many topics, including the upcoming Eclipse. This will be a zoom type presentation.

The March 13 meeting will be an in person Skywarn presentation and begin at **7pm (instead of 7:30)**. The VE testing session will begin at 6:15 to finish in time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm and then concluded with the annual club flea market.

r.s. Tom Sanders KB2NCI from notes by Sandy Federico KA2HQZ