



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

May 2021

www.siarc.us

Yaa, May is here and the trees are really leafing out. Looks great, just watch out for the allergies that come along with this season.

Remember to stay 1 wavelength at 144 MHz apart and wear a mask when outside of your home around others and when you cannot be socially distant. You are protecting others around you and slowing the community spread. Even when you get fully vaccinated, this will still be the recommendation for a while. Stay safe.

We will be **meeting at the Human Resources Building, 3019 County Complex Drive (off of CR 46)** May 12 at 7:30pm. This happens yearly because of the county auction held in the Safety Training Center. The meeting will follow the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm. We will need to follow the county guidelines of Masks, Social Distancing and a limit of 25 in attendance. Our program will be by Rich, WB2JLR, on How to build a Multi Band, Half Wave End Fed antenna for the Short Waves. Should be very interesting and helpful to us all. Thanks, Rich.

We continue to hold the Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820-(110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (not on the 12th) so there is ample opportunity to check on your friends in a safe way. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The April meeting went well with 12 in attendance. Steve, WB2VMR, did our program on the Nano VNA and the usefulness to the builder in us all. Thanks, Steve.

The Wild Water Derby was canceled for 2021 due to low water in the outlet. Maybe next year will work out.

I know a couple of our folks have been doing some Parks on the Air activations, 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.

Upcoming Events

Our **next VE Session** is scheduled for May 12, 2021 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the County Human Resources Building, 3019 County Complex Drive, Canandaigua, which is just to the east from our usual location. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED** because of the corona virus guidelines. Contact Russ N2IZV at rcharris@msn.com if you would like to be on his list of examinees. Masks and social distancing are required. He will also need VEs.

ARRL Field Day will be held the last weekend of June on the 26th and 27th. We have reserved the Safety Training Center grounds for the weekend, but the decision has not been finalized for location or what type of event we will be enjoying. Discussions with the Drumlins ARC are ongoing so more details will be coming. **There will be an organizational meeting this coming Saturday, May 8, at 8am at the Villager Restaurant in Canandaigua. Interested parties are invited to attend.** The rules are similar to last year and allow for home stations to be more active. The Board of Directors has voted to subsidize One shirt per member to the amount of \$5. I will be soliciting orders for Field Day shirts, etc. during the May meeting and through emails and will submit a single order for the club in early May. This is a good time to add on other Field Day articles and save the shipping cost (it is a flat rate for this size order). You can pay me upon pickup. Watch your email for order requests.

ARRL to Extend Field Day Rule Waivers from 2020, Add Class D and E Power Limit

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified [ARRL Field Day](#) rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 - 27.



"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021, Class D stations may work *all other* Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

For Field Day 2021, an *aggregate* club score will be published -- just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The [ARRL Field Day](#) web page contains complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day [Facebook group](#). Read [an expanded version](#).

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (First Tuesday evening of the month), Armed Forces Day Cross Band Test, QSO parties in 7th Call Area, Indiana, Delaware, New England, Arkansas, Hamvention QSO party, CQ-M International DX contest, CQ WW WPX CW Contest, and many others. See the May QST pages 71 and 82 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!

Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test Set for May 7 – 8

04/26/2021

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band Test, Friday and Saturday, May 7 – 8, in recognition of Armed Forces Day on May 15. The event is open to all radio amateurs. For

more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this exercise, designed to include amateur radio and government radio operators alike.

The AFD Cross-Band Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military and amateur radio stations, as authorized under FCC Part 97 rules. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise in which military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur radio frequencies being monitored. The **schedule** of military/government stations taking part in the Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test and information on the AFD message is available on the MARS website.

Complete the request form to obtain a QSL card.

This is a great way to practice Split Frequency operation. You transmit on the ham frequency and listen on the military frequency. Below is a link to the military frequencies being used:

[04212021-AFDCT-1 Arm Forces Day\[10581\].pdf](#)

RACES and ARES

Plans are forming to be able to link the 442.200 repeater on Gannett Hill with the 146.820 Club repeater at the VA. If needed, this would allow for hand held coverage in the cities of Canandaigua and Geneva to cover the county. More details will be forthcoming this summer.

The Summer Skywarn training schedule has 3 more sessions listed for May. They are May 5, 12 and 25 at 7pm. See www.weather.gov/buf/skywarn to enroll. These are on line courses.

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, but we will be discontinuing the use of FLMSG for our nets and drills, due to the difficulty of keeping everyone on the same version. It appears that the use of different versions of FLMSG makes receiving the transmission very spotty. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at kb2nci@arrl.net or 585-924-0752 or Scott N2UMH at ldfask@yahoo.com.

If you are not a member and would like to become one, please see or contact me. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep it as current as possible.

The New York State RACES net is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 3993.5khz LSB and members are always welcome and get some more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and 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 net. Now is a good time to check your station for lightning protection.

Odd and Ends

A new **RF Exposure Calculator** has been added to the Links on the SIARC website. The calculator was produced by the Lake Washington Ham Club in Redmond, Washington. Check it out and be prepared for the rule change that amateurs must evaluate their stations for RF Exposure. Below is the link to the FAQ from the ARRL.

[RF Exposure Calculator FAQ.pdf](#)

I wanted to inform all of you that there has begun a 10 meter net on Saturday nights at 7:30pm. The frequency is 28.405MHz USB and all are welcome. The net control is Eric, K2ENF, in Gates, NY and this the perfect place for technicians to get some HF experience and for all to use a band that can give some very interesting propagation.

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!

The “Extreme Ham Radio Sport” of County Hunting

By Paul Scipione, AA2AV

USA-CA Award #770

If you think that chasing 50 states, 40 worldwide CQ zones or 340 countries is challenging, why don't you try the coveted USA-CA (All County Award), which has been sponsored by *CQ Magazine* for more than three decades. There are 3,077 counties in the United States and almost 300 of those counties do not have a single resident ham!

To make things even more difficult (and interesting), the USA-CA Award requires that you get verification for every one of those 3,077 counties from the ham radio operator who gave you that county. Now in the "old days," when I earned the USA-CA, you needed a signed, printed QSL card from each. Because that was an expensive and time consuming process, MARAC, the Mobile Amateur Radio Award Club, provides a special QSL-Bureau for MRC (multi-contact) cards. All you have to do is pay MARAC's annual membership fee.

How do you operate to get the USA-CA? You can just scan the bands manor and pick up counties as they come - one per QSO. But there are at least 300 counties without a single fixed operator. You can try different bands and frequencies - not just HF, but also VHF and UHF. You can also win the award in any of three modes - all SSB; all CW; or mixed. Most hams choose mixed. I greatly prefer CW (much better during weak conditions), but there were then four or five SSB operators for every CW operator, even when the ARRL and FCC insisted that you pass CW code tests at three of the then five license class levels - 5wpm for Novice; 13wpm for General; and a daunting 20wpm for Extra. So earning the award was much easier and faster mixed, even if you loved CW.

MARAC and CQ make it a lot easier by sponsoring daily county hunting nets on specific bands and frequencies, most providing both regional and coast-to-coast bounce. Dedicated county hunters usually serve as Net Controls on the CH frequencies (many are retirees who remember how difficult it was for them to win the USA-CA). The two key (home) frequencies are:

14.336 on 20 meters for SSB & 14.056.5 on 20 meters for CW

If those frequencies have poor propagation, you can instead monitor frequencies on other HF bands, although you usually don't flip bands until the CH Net Controls on 20 tell you that additional contacts are available elsewhere. These include:

SSB: 3.901; 21.338; 28.336

CW: 3.556.5; 21.056.6; 28.056.5; 10.1225

When you exchange signal scores with the mobile station, the four most common ones are: 5x5; 4x5; 3x3 or 2x2. When it comes to an especially weak CW signal, you are allowed to shout 2x2 minimum minimum. The Net Control can help you further by shouting "over" between you and the mobile station. The signal report becomes part of the virtual (digital) QSL card.

Here are other ways that help a ham win this arguably most difficult DX award. When the Net Control station first goes on the air in the AM, he/she usually announces what counties a the mobile ham will be traveling through. Then you can monitor where he/she is while they come closer to the county you need. You can also visit one of the CH websites where mobile stations will post their upcoming destinations. Still another big help is the fact that a lot of mobile hams stop on borders, thus giving you two needed counties on one QSO. And at least half of the most frequent mobile operators are long-haul truckers. MARAC first started to encourage emergency frequencies the truckers could use to get help. BTW, the very first USA-CA winner was a 15 year old boy with polio who operated from his iron lung!

Keep in mind that there are nearly five million licensed hams in the world but only 1,200 who hold the USA-CA! We have annual and quarterly conventions that give you even more chances to work counties. There are even more specialized CH awards for home based hams who work them all a second, third or even more times. And for mobile operators who give out the most last counties for state or for the entire United States (called for the whole ball of wax). So have some fun, make new friends and learn more about our fascinating national geography!!!

A new benefit of ARRL membership: **ARRL Learning Network**

Overview: ARRL's Learning Network is a webinar series to help introduce members to the variety of activities and opportunities enjoyed by radio amateurs. These live presentations will be given by member-volunteers, for all members. Like hamfest forums and radio club presentations, the webinars are intended to help participants get more active, involved, and engaged in amateur radio. Presentations are 30-minutes each to accommodate attendee's busy schedules, followed by a 15-minute period for questions-and-answers. For additional information contact ARRL's **Lifelong Learning** department.

- **Register now!** ARRL members may register for upcoming presentations and view previously recorded webinars by [clicking here](#).

Webinar Schedule

RF Exposure Rules

Presented by Eastern Massachusetts ARRL Technical Coordinator Dan Brown, W1DAN

The FCC has made changes to the RF-exposure rules that modify the ways that radio stations can determine whether they are exempt from the need to do a routine RF-exposure station evaluation. These slight changes become effective May 3, 2021, and determining compliance is easy. Eastern Massachusetts ARRL Technical Coordinator Dan Brown, W1DAN, will discuss what our RF exposure rules are, and show how to determine compliance for your station. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, will join us for Q&A.

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 @ 7:30 pm EDT (2330 UTC)

HF Noise Mitigation

Presented by ARRL Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO

An educational seminar to help both new and experienced amateurs who are on HF and finding themselves plagued with noise. We'll learn what "noise" is, about the various noise sources, and how to mitigate those noises using a variety of techniques.

Thursday, May 6, 2021 @ 3:30 pm EDT (1930 UTC) ***Please note the new date***

Sponsored by 

W1AW Antenna Farm

Presented by W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q

Experience a bird's-eye view and description of the antennas used by W1AW for both the station's scheduled transmissions, and visitor operator activity. All the antennas used at W1AW are single-band yagis. Viewers will also see the 5 GHz Sector antennas that are part of W1AW's AREDN system.

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 @ 1 pm EDT (1700 UTC)

Sponsored by 

Ask the Lab: How ARRL's Technical Information Service Can Help You

Presented by Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory Manager

Learn all about the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) and the expert ARRL Laboratory staff who answer thousands of questions each year from members. Get tips about projects, suggestions to address various station installations, and help for some of your most pressing ham radio questions. You'll discover how to search ARRL's extensive Periodicals Archive, find helpful articles, read test reports, access technical forums, and find answers to technical questions beyond the Lab.

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 @ 1 pm EDT (1700 UTC)

Improving Your Club's 2021 Field Day Score

Presented by Paul Bourque, N1SFE, ARRL Contest Program Manager

Learn how your club or group can take advantage of the 2021 Field Day rules waivers while operating as Class D or E from home. We'll discuss how individuals or groups can boost their scores by earning bonus points, review how to use the Field Day web applet to submit your score, and go over how to attribute your score to your club's aggregate

score. This presentation highlights all you need to know to operate as a group for Field Day 2021.
Thursday, June 10, 2021 @ 8 pm EDT (0000 UTC on Friday June 11)

Registration & Recordings

ARRL members may register for upcoming presentations and view previously recorded webinars. ARRL-affiliated radio clubs may also use the recordings as presentations for club meetings, mentoring new and current hams, and discussing amateur radio topics.

[>> To register & view recordings click here <<](#)

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 March/April issue covers many topics, including Our Active Sun, Parks on the Air, a Copper Tape Antenna for 2 meters and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership.

See the flyer link for the Cortland Hamfest on June 12

[SARC Summer Hamfest June 12, 2021 - Skyline Amateur Radio Club Website \(skylineradioclub.org\)](http://skylineradioclub.org)

See the flyer link below for the RAGS Hamfest on July 10

[HAMFEST FLYER 2021\[10986\].pdf](#)

Batavia Hamfest, July 17

Moravia Hamfest, July 24

Lancaster Hamfest, September 12

The Drumlins Hamfest is tentatively scheduled for October 2, 2021. It is slated to be held at the Palmyra VFW again. More details will follow this summer.

NEW REPEATERS:

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. Many of our members have been getting on the air with 6 meters. Looks like fun. 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"

927.21	902.21
25	25

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. He would love to hear from you! While we are not having meetings, you can 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 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

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 #290 and have covered a range of topics and have heard from new hams in Yates and Seneca Counties.

145.450- (110.9) W2ONT
RACES/ARES training net

Sundays 8pm Ontario County

146.685- (71.9) WA2EMO
net

Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES

146.610- (110.9) N2MPE
County RACES net

Thursdays (except 4th) 9pm Monroe

3993.5kHz LSB
RACES net

Sundays at 9am New York State

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

Welcome to the warmer weather, safer conditions and excitement of things to do. As you can see above, there are many hamfests planned for the upcoming months, Field Day preparations are underway and if we all do our part, we can have a lot of fun and stay healthy at the same time. We have been cooped up at home for many months and our great hobby will allow us to see our friends and make new ones and enjoy the wonderful western New York environment. So, get out there and get on the radio and make plans to do things.

By the way, did you notice the picture of our beloved Treasurer in Sunday's Daily Messenger?? He is a quite talented pianist and the recognition is well deserved. Way to go, Stan!

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!

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.