



## Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



# Smoke Signal

January 2018

[www.siarc.us](http://www.siarc.us)

Welcome to 2018. Stay as warm as you can.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center on County Road 48. This will be our annual Flea Market so bring your items you want to sell and some cash to purchase those treasures that are sure to be there. The meeting will follow the 6:30pm Laurel VE testing session. All are welcome.

### Past Events

---

Our annual Christmas party at the AWA was a success as we had 17 members and even more guests there to enjoy the pot luck dinner. The raffle for the ARRL Handbook was won by Doug, KB2BON. Thanks to our hosts Ron W2FUI and Stan WM3D for their hospitality.

### Upcoming Events

---

I would like to propose that we have a special event station to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. This would be a daylong event, where we set up one or more HF stations and activate them to contact as many station to help us celebrate. This could be in place of our annual picnic. I am looking for volunteers to organize this day. These are usually publicized in QST, so the date and bands need to be set about 3 months in advance. Contact me if you would like to help.

Our **next VE Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on January 10, 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](mailto: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](mailto:wd2stk@yahoo.com) for testing or to help as a VE.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Kids, Day, North American QSO Party, Montana QSO Party, January VHF contest, Winter Field Day and many others. See the January QST pages 89 and 98 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!

The ARRL Rookie Roundup will be held April 15 and is targeted to get those first licensed from 2016 and later onto HF. On the ARRL website, enter Rookie Roundup in the Key Word search and follow the link.

Upcoming events for 2018 include:

Drumlins Hamfest, April 21

As I get more information, I will post it here.

Remember our annual club flea market at the January meeting.

Our next Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 27 at 8am at the Villager Restaurant, 245 S. Main St, Canandaigua. Please let me know by January 19 if you think you will be coming so I can let the restaurant know our numbers. If you find out last minute, come anyway, there is always room. All are welcome. We will have a Board of Directors meeting afterwards.

## RACES and ARES

The weekly RACES nets are back on the W2ONT 145.450 repeater, thanks to a loan from Dave W2ACC. Steve WB2VMR has fixed the primary repeater and we will get it installed when the weather breaks.

Thank you to WB2VMR, KA2HQZ, KD2GTA, WA2SSJ and KD2EHU for their assistance as net controls this year. We could not have done it without them.

Also, I encourage all of you to check into our weekly RACES/ARES net (you are invited to check into any other net also) and practice those skills that someday you may be called upon to use. 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 with [kb2nci@arrl.net](mailto:kb2nci@arrl.net) or 585-924-0752.

## Odd and Ends

---

### ***Member Survey and Mentoring***

Dave Hunter, N2EZY

### **Survey Results**

This is a summary of the results for the club survey that we did in November:

Member interests by the numbers:

Bands	LF/MF	HF	VHF	UHF	Microwave +						
	1	14	18	14	1						
Modes	Voice	CW	Digital								
	18	5	10								
Operating	QRP	EME	Satellite	DX	Mobile						
	7	1	2	9	15						
Activities	EmComm	Contests	Awards	Building	Public Service	VE Testing	Youth	SWL	Volunteer	ARRL Service	Social
	11	9	3	6	15	8	4	0	8	5	7
Meetings	Presentations	Kit Building	Training Classes	Swap Meets	Activities						
	16	9	12	8	10						

Current interests of the members:

- DSTAR, All Star
- Digital Comms
- MARS, HF Digital
- Eventually getting my extra license and being able to talk to other countries
- Figuring out what I'd like to do next and keeping current station running
- HF Digital Modes
- Meeting fellow hams on radio
- What are the most active bands and times
- Go kits and JOTA and HamNation and Amateur Logic
- Testing / whatever I'm needed to keep busy
- HF Contests
- FT8
- DX Chaser
- Programming and using Com radios
- Packet Radio, Flexnet, VHF/UHF, Radio Programming, Some mobile HF
- I would like to eventually get a General or Extra and get into HF and CW
- Public Service, being ready for emergencies
- Most aspects of ham radio, kit building, emergency services including ARES, RACES
- Learning digital modes including DSTAR

Meeting Suggestions:

Talk about what county plans are if we had a Puerto Rico like disaster  
Have Fun  
Using equipment in EOC  
Presentation both on Amateur radio topics and outside topics

#### Other Suggestions:

Amateur Video  
Savor the moment  
Separate the RACES. We should devote the meeting to SIARC

#### Summary:

The survey shows that most members are interested in VHF, voice, mobile operating and public service. Presentations are the most popular at club meetings. As expected, there is a wide range of interests in many aspects of ham radio. Many members are currently interested in digital modes and EmComm/Public Service.

### **Mentoring Program**

From the ARRL web site, there is a discussion about mentoring or “Elmering” in clubs

At the national association for Amateur Radio we have always felt that the local radio club is where the learning takes place. The local radio club is where the newcomer begins the journey of discovery and the seasoned veteran keeps informed of the latest technology. Regardless of where we are on our ham radio journey our local radio club is where we find our friends.

It is ham radio tradition to refer those mentors in our ham radio career as “Elmers.” I started in ham radio at the RIT Amateur Radio Club K2GXT. I found many “Elmers” there who were willing to answer my questions and help me learn how to be a good operator. I learned a lot being part of a club.

At SIARC, we want to provide similar opportunities to our members. Do you want to operate on a new mode? Understand how is HF different from VHF? Learn what antenna works best for HF? Let us know what your questions are and we'll get you answers. In some cases we both will learn something.

Send your questions to me at [kb2nci@arrl.net](mailto:kb2nci@arrl.net) and Dave and I will do our best to get them answered. It may even generate some programs. If you can help with any of the topics listed on the survey, please contact Dave or myself. This is your club and you can make it successful.

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.

December 11 will start off a year long operating event commemorating NASA, similar to the National Parks on the Air event in 2016. See [nasaontheair.wordpress.com](http://nasaontheair.wordpress.com) for details. Could be a fun event to participate in.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act is back before congress. The bill to afford us reasonable accommodations for antennas in all living environments has passed the House of Representatives and is headed to the U.S. Senate as S.1534. See QST or the ARRL website for more details on how you can have your voice heard.

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. The website is now on another provider and at a cost savings over the old one. Thanks to Steve, Jay and Scott for coming up with an alternative

For local repeaters, you can go to [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) and select Ham Radio 101 to find a quick reference. You can also go to [www.unyrepco.org](http://www.unyrepco.org) and [www.wnysorc.org](http://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.

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. His 220 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).

**The Statewide UHF system** has a change at the Bristol site. The repeater frequency has changed to 444.550+ (110.9) and sponsored by W2HYP and W2COP. It is also linked to the 442.000+ (110.9) repeater in Wethersfield, which gives it good coverage into Buffalo and beyond. Many hours and dollars have been spent to get this system on the air and it is a fun and useful system to access and use along the NYS Thruway and I-81 corridors. See <http://www.upstateham.com/2012/12/uhf-ny-statewide-linked-repeaters.html> for more information. They are still updating the Bristol changes, but this gives you good information on the rest of the system.

This repeater system carries a Central New York Information and swap net on Wednesdays at 7pm. Stations check in from all up and down the thruway, so it is interesting. Check it out.

Check out [www.dstarusers.org](http://www.dstarusers.org) and [www.dstarinfo.com](http://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
146.610- (110.9) N2MPE	Thursdays (except 4 <sup>th</sup> ) 9pm Monroe County RACES net
3993.5kHz LSB	New York State RACES net Sundays at 9am

## 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

---

With the work on the 146.820 and 145.450 repeaters that has been done recently, we are back to full strength for local coverage. Along with the 442.200 on Gannett Hill, the two D-Star repeaters in Honeoye and the one in Stanley, we provide the area with good, reliable amateur radio coverage. The radios will operate in the event of many different types of disasters, so our ability to help our community is very strong. The best thing you can do is exercise them and hone your skill in operating. I encourage you all to get on the radio as much as possible, make new friendships and strengthen the existing ones. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the club is there to help you do these things. Let us know how we can do that.

Happy New Year and  
Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio and I hope to catch you on the radio!

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

[kb2nci@arrl.net](mailto: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.

