



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

January 2021

www.siarc.us

Welcome to January. I trust you got through the holiday season safely and are healthy.

Remember to stay 1 wavelength at 144 MHz apart and wear a mask when outside of your home around others and when you cannot social distance. You are protecting others around you and slowing the community spread.

The face to face meeting for January 13 has been CANCELLED due to virus concerns. I polled the board and with the increasing numbers of virus cases in the area, fewer members wanting to attend and taking the average age of our membership into consideration, it was agreed to not meet in person in January. We will be holding a **Meeting over the Air** on the 146.820 repeater at 7:30pm. At this time, the January VE testing is still scheduled, but that may change. We will see what February brings.

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 13th) so there is ample opportunity to check on your friends in a safe way. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The December meeting was cancelled due to virus concerns.

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 January 13, 2021 at 6:30. 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.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Old New Year Contest, North American QSO Party (SSB and CW), January VHF Contest, Winter Field Day and many others. See the January QST pages 75 and 81 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!

Winter Field Day is coming up on January 30 and 31. Anybody planning on operating??

RACES and ARES

We have begun small group training sessions with the RACES group to increase our familiarity with all of the equipment and resources at our disposal. These are voluntary and will be occurring on an ad hoc basis. When you are invited to participate, I hope you will avail yourself of this opportunity. This is another good reason to keep your contact information up to date.

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.

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.

Odd and Ends

Congratulations to the Rochester VHF group during the 2019 VHF contest, for making the cover of the January QST. That is the vehicle of Jeff N2MKT from Wayne County right out front. He was the coordinator of the Fox Hunt held this past summer. Way to go Jeff!

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. I was going to check in last night, but I could not hear net control. I could hear stations in Penfield, Farmington and the state of Indiana! Maybe I will have better luck next week.

A new benefit of ARRL membership:

Schedule of Upcoming Webinars

Welcome to ARRL's Learning Network! Members should use the registration links below to save your seat in an upcoming webinar. This schedule is subject to change and unintended cancellations. Do you have questions? Email ARRL [Lifelong Learning](#). Have an interesting topic you want to share? Submit your presentation idea through our [Call for Speakers form](#).

Need help? Before the webinar we encourage you to review the [system requirements](#) and [check your computer system](#) to ensure the best viewing experience. For technical assistance before or during the session please visit [GoToWebinar online support](#) or call toll-free 833-851-8340 in the U.S.

Recordings: Presentations are recorded for later viewing (barring any unforeseen technical difficulties). See the list of [previously recorded webinars](#)

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

Schedule:

>> **REGISTER:** To sign up for an upcoming webinar [click here](#) <<

QSLing in an Online World

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Learn all about the changing methods of QSLing in Amateur Radio. Topics will include:

* Paper QSL Cards

* Electronic QSLing including LoTW and eQSL

* Hybrid forms of QSLing including OQRS

* Finding QSL routes & addresses

* Use of online sites for sharing logs and other station information- QRZ.com, ClubLog, etc.

Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 10 AM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)

VHF/UHF Contesting and SOTA; A Perfect Match

Brian Betz, W7JET

We are going to take a look at the excitement and challenge of VHF UHF contesting from a SOTA Summit using the QRP portable point of view. The presentation will center around the success of the large scale participation of SOTA activators in Arizona for the January VHF contest.

Thursday, January 7, 2021, 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST (2030 UTC)

Amateur Radio Logging

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Discover the advantages of keeping an electronic Amateur Radio Log. Find out why you may need more than one software program for logging-contesting, digital modes, special events, etc. Learn about using one full-featured logging program to pull everything together, interface with outside databases, handle electronic QSLing, etc. The discussion will include file formats, importing and exporting data between programs, submitting contest logs online and safe backup of data.

Thursday, January 14, 2021, 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST (2030 UTC)

Emergency Communications: Why Train?

Greg Evans, K5GTX - Section Emergency Coordinator for North Texas and Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Collin County

Why should we train? Utilizing Amateur Radio Operators in an EMCOMM situation is a key function that can save lives. As AROs, we must be able to respond to the needs of our served agencies quickly and responsibly. Topics covered include, Incident Command System and its relevance, building on consistent training, interoperability with multiple communications providers, interoperability with VOAD and partners, Mission One: Get the information delivered.

Thursday, January 21, 2021, 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST (2030 UTC)

Easy Helical Copper Tape and PVC 2m Vertical Antenna

John Portune, W6NBC

Here's how to quickly build from hardware-store copper tape and PVC pipe a tiny 18 in. continuously loaded light weight portable or base station 2m omni-directional vertical antenna with performance and efficiency comparable to a 5 ft. J-pole. Cost: roughly \$10. It's an easy afternoon's home brew project, ideal for the new ham but equal to the serious hams' needs. It is great for events like bike-a-thons. It also makes an excellent ham radio club hands-on build-it meeting project. Further, it adapts well to other bands.

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 10 PM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)

Interesting Stories about Ham Radio & Weather Spotting

Rob Macedo, KD1CY

One of the most critical ways Amateur Radio supports agencies such as the National weather service, National Hurricane Center and Emergency Management is via weather spotting via the NWS SKYWARN program. This presentation goes through interesting stories about how Amateurs involved in SKYWARN have saved lives and property and how this is an important Amateur Radio activity.

Thursday, February 11, 2020, 5 PM PST / 8 PM EST (0100 UTC on Friday, February 12)

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW Tour

Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, W1AW Station Manager

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, located in Newington, Connecticut was established to honor the memory of ARRL's co-founder and first president, Hiram Percy Maxim. Although the first radio station of the ARRL was actually located in Hartford, Connecticut and active as W1MK, W1AW in Newington is known worldwide and considered the radio station most associated with Hiram Percy Maxim. Formally established in 1938 – nearly two years after the death of Hiram Percy Maxim - W1AW has consistently been on the air, save for the time when the station was ordered off the air by the FCC because of World War II. This guided tour will provide an inside look at W1AW and will be led by Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q.

Thursday, February 18, 2021, 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST (2030 UTC)

>> **REGISTER:** To sign up for an upcoming webinar [click here](#) <<

The ARRL **Learning Network** webinar series was introduced as a new membership benefit in July. Presentations are by members, for members, as part of ARRL's Lifelong Learning initiative. Topics cover three primary interest areas among radio amateurs, including electronics and technology, personal communications and operating, and emergency communications and public service.

All webinars are recorded, so members and radio clubs can view previous presentations. **Join** ARRL to take advantage of this new member benefit.

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 November/December issue covers many topics, including Skywarn, Antennas and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership.

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"

927.212	902.212
5	5

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. 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

STILL GOING---Since March 17, 2020, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the 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.

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

Well, not too much to report for club activity in December. The virus has put a damper on many of our plans but that is ok as long as we all get through this. The repeaters are still the best way to keep up with your friends and just tossing out your call from time to time may just net you someone to talk to and connect with. It appears that the sunspot cycle will be improving so getting on HF can be another band to try.

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^[L]_[SEP] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[L]_[SEP] The Radio

^[L]_[SEP] Amateur is:

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

LOYAL Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other ^[L]_[SEP] amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, ^[L]_[SEP] through which Amateur Radio in the United States is ^[L]_[SEP] represented nationally and internationally.^[L]_[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 ^[L]_[SEP] advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These ^[L]_[SEP] are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

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

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