



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club
Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

March 2016

www.siarc.us

Hello to March and 23 degrees, some snow and wind. Good thing spring is just around the corner. I am hopeful it is a short corner!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9, at 7:30 pm at the Safety Training Center. This will follow the 6:30pm VE session led by Dave, AB2WZ. After the business meeting, we will begin work on the 40 meter QRP CW transceiver kits that many have purchased. Please take the parts out and sort them before coming to the meeting. Steve says it will help the project go smoother for you. Be sure to ground your self to dissipate any static charge on your body BEFORE touching the parts. Those of you that have already begun the assembly can assist those of us (myself included) that are not as experienced with this.

Contact Steve, WB2VMR, ahead of time if you have questions.

Past Events

It was pretty quiet in February. Who participated in the COMEX-16 MARS drill? We would like to hear from you. At the last meeting, we had the SIARC shirt and hat distribution. We have a few extra hats available for sale at \$15 each. See Tom KB2NCL if interested. Steve WB2VMR went over the kits that were distributed and took orders for a few more.

Upcoming Events

Our **next VE Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on March 9, 2016, and Dave AB2WZ is always looking for Volunteer Examiners. It will be held at the Safety Training Center. Contact Dave at ab2wz@aol.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 Dave 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.

John KD2GTA, a member on the local Storm Trackers organization, will be starting a weather net on a local repeater in the coming weeks. More details will be out soon.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: QSO parties in Oklahoma, Idaho, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Virginia, the ARRL International SSB DX contest, South America 10 meter contest, Tesla Memorial CW contest, AWA John Rollins Memorial DX test, and many others. See the March QST pages 83 and 93 and the WA7BNM website <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more information.

Our **next breakfast** will be on Saturday, April 16 at 8am at the Villager Restaurant. Mark your calendars for this fun time. You can let me know anytime if you are coming.

The **National Parks on the Air contest (NPOTA)** will be going on all of this year and I would like to see if we can activate in our area. The closest I can come up with is the Womens Rights Historical Park in Seneca Falls. John, WA2SSJ, had mentioned this to me so maybe we can run with that. Bring your ideas to the meeting for discussion. See www.arrl.org for more details.

Plans are coming together for the trip to Dayton for the Hamvention in May. KD2GTA, WB2VMR, W2ACC, KD2CZW and KB2NCI are planning on attending with a van leaving Thursday morning and returning Sunday. There is still

room for a couple of more riders, but you need to get your hotel reservation done (we all have ours). Contact KB2NCL if you would like a ride.

Field Day planning has begun and the event on June 25 and 26, will be held again at the Watkins Lodge, Ontario County Park at Gannett Hill in Naples. We expect another great weekend but will need everyone to pray and wish for a nice weather weekend and lots of propagation! Further details will be forthcoming, but you can contact Don N2VDE at porcine2@gmail.com or Rich KC2TNJ at tinker@rochester.rr.com if you would like to be involved in the organization of this.

The Drumlins Hamfest will be held again at the Palmyra VFW, 4306 State Route 31, on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 8am to 1pm. SIARC will have an inside table again this year, so if you have items you would like to sell, please arrive after 7am. See www.druminsarc.us for more details.

There will also be two other hamfests in the area this year. The Rochester Hamfest (RARA) will be Saturday, May 28, 2016, at the Eastman Business Park, 200 West Ridge Road. See www.rochesterham.org for more details. Talk in will be on the 145.110- (110.9) repeater.

The other will be the Barnard Fire Hamfest in association with RARRA and will be Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Barnard Fireman's Field, 360 Maiden Lane, Greece. See www.k2rra.org for more details. Talk in on 146.880- (110.9) repeater.

RACES and ARES

If you do not have your Disaster Lan user name and password, contact Dave AB2WZ at ab2wz@aol.com . You do not want to find out at the wrong time that you do not have it.

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. If you have

ANY questions, feel free to contact me with kb2nci@arrl.net or 585-924-0752.

We will begin planning soon for the Wild Water Derby, April 30, Run for the Red in Canandaigua (July or August) and the Finger Lakes Triathlon, September 11. Please keep those in mind throughout the year as we can always use a few more operators.

We have begun preliminary planning on the Finger Lakes Challenge MS Bike event we help support. It will be held the weekend of July 16 and 17 and begins and ends at Keuka College, near Penn Yan. We will be looking for close to 20 operators to help with this event and even though we work closely with Drumlins on this, we will need help from as many SIARC/Ontario County RACES/ARES members as possible. We can use hams for one or both days. Contact Tom, KB2NCI, if you would like to help.

The March QST Public Service column raises the topic of Preparation and specifically the training recommended to be at the top of your game as a Public Service communicator. There are several FEMA classes available on-line to assist you in this endeavor. The classes teach the skills necessary to work well with our group, the public safety folks and other agencies. Plan now to get up to date in your training. One of Scott's goals for 2016 is to get our people trained. See www.training.FEMA.gov/is for more details. We are also working on getting our various RACES stations better organized and operational. There is always a need for assistance, so please contact Scott, N2UMH, n2umh@yahoo.com to become involved. You can also contact me at kb2nci@arrl.net.

Odd and Ends

Norm, WB2GGM, has been working hard to get some local educators to attend the **ARRL Teachers Institute** this summer. This is an all expense paid week of professional education on amateur radio and wireless technology. When you see Norm, ask him about it and lend a hand if possible. See www.arrl.org for details. Way to go Norm. (good thing it has been a poor ice fishing season, it gave him more time to pursue this!)

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 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.

A reminder that Dave, W2ACC, has activated the 145.130 repeater in Seneca County. I don't believe it needs a pl, but when he puts one it, it will probably be 110.9hz.

If you travel into the **Watertown area**, be aware that there is a new D-Star Repeater in Fort Drumm, KE7WWT BC, on 434.000 and 145.67 (both simplex). D-Star is growing in New York State. When in that area, get on and try the repeaters!

There is a new D-Star repeater in our area. It is based near Clyde in Wayne County and its frequency is 443.075 (+ offset) and call sign is KA2NDW. You would enter in Repeater 1 KA2NDW B and Repeater 2 KA2NDW G.

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 Ray AB2UY or 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.

The “Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015” now has a companion bill in the US Senate, S.1685. See <http://www.arrl.org/news/senate-sponsor-of-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-said-bill-promotes-regulatory-transparency-equali> to see how you can help get this passed and into law.

Mike, KD2IFF, and others, have started a **Youth Amateur Radio Club**. His son, Wesley, recently became KD2KHI and his other son is studying for the technician exam also. They have some great plans to encourage the youth of our area to become interested in the hobby so keep this in mind if you run across young people that might be interested in becoming hams or learning more about electronics.

Nets

145.450- (110.9) W2ONT training net	Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES
146.685- (71.9) WA2EMO	Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES net
146.610- (110.9) N2MPE RACES net	Thursdays (except 4 th) 9pm Monroe County
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

As we move into Spring and Summer, there will be more amateur radio events to participate in locally. From hamfests to public service events, there is something for everyone and all are a great way to use your hobby for fun, fellowship and support of the communities we live in. Club meetings are another great place to explore the hobby and find out what others are doing or would like to do. The membership of our group is growing constantly and each person brings something unique. I really enjoy hearing and seeing what you are doing and I am sure others do also. Field Day (June 25 and 26) is a great venue to showcase to others what interests you and help you can find a like minded person to join you. If anyone would like to send me a few paragraphs of what part of amateur radio you enjoy, I can put it in the next Smoke Signal.

See you at the 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.