



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

March 2017

www.siarc.us

Hello March! Only a few more weeks til spring weather (by May I hope!) and at least we have not had an ice storm like in 1991. I wonder if March will repay for the low snow totals in January and February?

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8, at the Safety Training Center on County Road 48. The meeting will be at 7:30pm, following the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm, and our program will be by John WA2SSJ on PRB-1. (What does PRB stand for anyway?). Should be a very interesting talk. Thanks John for volunteering.

Past Events

Thanks to Tony KD2HNI for his informative talk last month on Elemental and Isotopic Abundance. He brought up some very interesting ways to look at our planet and universe.

Orlando Hamcation

Dave Hunter, N2EZY

This year I attended the Orlando HamCation for the first time. My parents were spending the month of February in Treasure Island, FL and invited me down for the HamCation weekend. My Dad (KC2IUJ) has been studying for his upgrade to General and wanted to take the test there. (He passed!) The weather was fantastic being sunny and in the lower 80s.

The HamCation is a very large hamfest. The claim being 2nd only to Dayton in size seems well deserved. It is held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and uses several of the buildings. The "big name" vendors were in the building closest to the front gate. All of the major manufacturers (FlexRadio, Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu, etc.) had very nice booths with new radios on display and a team of people in company golf shirts able to answer questions. There were also two other buildings of smaller vendors. It took quite a bit of time to walk around and see everything. I did not venture out much to the flea market but it was also

very large. The testing was done in a small building away from the major crowds and traffic. I did not go in to the testing building but I thought it was in a good location to keep noise and distractions down.

There were several forums and some demonstrations. Some “big names” in ham radio (Gordon West, Carole Perry, Bob Heil, etc.) were presenting at forums. There were three EMCOM vans and a ham station near the main building. I was disappointed that some of the vans were not open for tours or to peek in. We saw an AMSAT demonstration outside the main building around 11:30. A little girl about 10 was working an FM satellite using two handhelds (2m/440) and her Dad was the “AZ-EL” controller for an arrow-style antenna. It was neat to see that you can work satellites with such basic equipment. Using two handhelds allowed her to monitor the return signal and verify she was hitting the satellite. She worked several stations as part of the demo. We also went to the D-STAR forum in the late afternoon. The two speakers (John Davis WB4QDX and Ed Woodrick WA4YIH aka Mr. “dstarinfo.com”) were very good. It was a pretty good mix of beginner and advanced information. Of course, there were the usual questions from some who had a specific problem that only pertained to their setup or repeater. I did find out that Kenwood now has a new D-STAR handheld so there was a bit of discussion about that. John and Ed announced they are going to have a live online stream about D-STAR on March 11th. (see www.DSTARInfo.com)

Overall, I really enjoyed the Orlando HamCation and look forward to going again.

Thanks, Dave. Anybody else go anywhere interesting?

Upcoming Events

Our **next VE Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on March 8, 2017, 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.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: QSO parties in Oklahoma, Idaho, Louisiana, Virginia, Wisconsin, ARRL International DX SSB contest (this weekend), North American RTTY Sprint, QCWA QSO party and many others. See the March QST pages 89 and 100 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!

We are moving ahead with plans for Field Day 2017, June 24 and 25. It will be a joint operation with the Drumlins ARC at the Varick Fire Department on Route 96A, Geneva. Contact Don N2VDE or Rich KC2TNJ if you would like to help in the organization of it.

Upcoming events for 2017 include:

Wild Water Derby, April ?

Drumlins Hamfest, April 22---SIARC will have a table there, bring some stuff to sell

Rochester Hamfest, June 3, Walnut Hill Farm, Pittsford

Tour De Cure, June 10

Bike MS: Finger Lakes Challenge in Geneva, July 8 and 9

Musselman Triathlon in Geneva, July 14 to 16

Red Cross Run for the Red, August?

Finger Lakes Triathlon, September 10

Wineglass Marathon, October 1

Pumpkin Patrol, October 30 and 31

Skywarn Appreciation Day, December 2

and many others that will want ham operators to assist.

RACES and ARES

Several of us are meeting monthly (for now) to get the RACES group re-energized. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 9 at 9am at the Safety Training Center. All interested parties are welcome to attend. We are looking to step up our game and be available to be more helpful to the Emergency Management Office. We have radios at all three hospitals in the county, a very good station at the EMO and a work in progress at the Geneva City Hall. If you cannot attend the meetings, but would like to get more involved, please send me an email or contact me at the SIARC meetings or on the air. I usually monitor the 145.450 when I am able.

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. 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 or 585-924-0752. You can get an outside of the area perspective on this by reading page 93 of the January QST.

We are working on updating the RACES roster. There are several names on the list that we have not heard from for a quite a while and we need to determine their interest. If you have been semi or not active, please contact John WA2SSJ or myself (KB2NCI) to let us know of your thoughts. All are welcome, we would just like to hear from you.

Odd and Ends

We are still selling raffle tickets at \$10 each for the Kenwood TS120S with power supply and tuner. We are about half way to the number we would like to sell. Please see Tom at the meeting to get your ticket.

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. There will be more information soon on what steps can be taken to help its passage. See QST or the ARRL website for more details.

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.

For local repeaters, you can go to www.rochesterham.org and select Ham Radio 101 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.

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. He will have a 220mhz repeater up soon also.

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.

The ARRL Teachers Institute is taking applications for the upcoming sessions this summer. It is a great opportunity for a teacher interested in using technology in the classroom to get some hands on time with electronics, Ohm's Law, electronic components and simple circuits. See page 88 in the March QST for more information or contact Norm WB2GGM for help on getting a teacher signed up.

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.

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.

Do you like programs? So do I but we do run out of ideas. If you have an idea for an interesting program, please contact the speaker (or present it yourself) and see me about scheduling it. I am sure with all the membership and varied interests, we can find some programs.

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 th) 9pm Monroe County RACES net
3993.5kHz LSB	New York State RACES net Sundays at 9am
146.745- (71.9) WA2AAZ	Storm Trackers Weather Training Net, 4 th Tuesday 7pm

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 I often say at this time of year, I am looking forward to warmer weather and getting outside (of course that means mowing the yard, etc too) and doing the public service events that I really enjoy with the hobby. Working with other hams to provide safety communications for fund raising events gives me great satisfaction on many levels. It is a fundamental purpose of the hobby and helps to keep the understanding of your equipment up to date. It also makes you a better operator. I hope to see many or all of you at the many events in the area, many of which have been listed here.

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.