



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

March 2018

www.siarc.us

Only a few more weeks until warmer weather. You can make it!! Just be ready, March can be a rough month around here.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center on County Road 48. Our program is to be determined. All are welcome.

Past Events

Our February meeting included a program from Rich, WB2JLR, on his experience at the HCJB broadcast station in Ecuador. Thanks, Rich.

Upcoming Events

I would like to propose that we have a special event station to commemorate the 65th 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 March 14, 2018, and Russ N2IZV is always looking for Volunteer Examiners. This session will be before the regular SIARC meeting at the Safety Training Center. Sabrina WD2STK will be leading this session as Russ has some lame excuse for being out of town for a Rotary event. (just kidding, Russ). Safe travels. Contact Russ at 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 for testing or to help as a VE.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: South America 10 meter contest, Oklahoma, Idaho, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Virginia QSO parties, North American Sprint RTTY, Run for the Bacon QRP CW contest, and many others. See the March QST pages 85 and 96 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, Palmyra, April 21—SIARC will have a table for members

Wild Water Derby, Shortsville, April 28

Tour De Cure for Diabetes, Webster and Wayne County, June 9

Field Day, Varick Fire Dept, Seneca County, June 23 and 24

Musselman Triathlon, Geneva, July 14 and 15

Multiple Sclerosis Roc the Ride, Rochester, August 25

Mary Gooley Hemophilia Center Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua, September 9

Pumpkin Patrol, Ontario and Wayne Counties, October 30 and 31

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

Received this about a hamfest north of Pittsburgh, PA. If someone wants to go, let me know so I can request the two free tickets.

To: Squaw Island ARC

The 'Breeze Shooters' will once again be having their Hamfest on June 2 and June 3, 2018 - This will be our 64th Annual Event.

This year we are again pleased to have been chosen to host the ARRL - WPA Section Convention. Presenters from the ARRL will be there.

As in the years past, we are offering to the local radio clubs in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, New York, District of Columbia and West Virginia:

(2)- Free Admission Tickets to our Hamfest at our newest location:
The BIG Butler Fairgrounds, on US Rt. 422 in Prospect, PA (north of Pittsburgh)

These can be given as a 'drawing prize' at your April or May, 2018 club meeting.

This is one way we advertise our Hamfest and welcome members from other clubs to attend.

The tickets will only be sent to the postal address that was provided to us from the ARRL (no exceptions)
and can be only obtained by responding to this email from the account that it was addressed.

OFFER IS LIMITED TO (2) Tickets per club and request must be recieved by April 30, 2018

Please help spread the word about the Hamfest by downloading and displaying our Information Flyer at your club's meeting location. See...

<http://www.breezeshooters.org>

73's and hope to see you there,
de The Breeze Shooters

RACES and ARES

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.

We will be starting up the organizational meetings again. All are welcome and I will send out the notices and publicize them in the newsletter.

Odd and Ends

Dave and I are still waiting to receive more questions spurred by the survey. Keep them coming.

The following is on the ARRL website and can answer some questions (maybe spark some interest) in DX chasing.

<http://www.arrl.org/chasing-dx>

This node will contain a number of div.page.

Chasing DX

What is DXing?

- Don't call the DX unless you can hear their signal.
- When the DX station acknowledges someone's call, stop calling until the contact is completed. Wait until you hear "QRZ" or something similar before calling again. (In CW pileups, the

end of the contact may only be signaled by the DX station sending his own call sign.)

- When calling, send your call sign, not the call of the DX station.
- When a DX station is trying to sort out a call sign, he may send “W4? AGN,” meaning that he hears a W4, but can’t make out the rest of the call sign (AGN is a CW abbreviation for “again.”) If you aren’t the station he is looking for, don’t call.
- If you’re trying to make an SSB contact, this is probably a good time to use speech compression (or speech processing) if your transceiver offers this feature.
- If you make contact, send only the information the DX operator needs, typically your location and signal report.

When a station suddenly pops up in a rare DXCC entity, US state or grid square, the result is a chaotic swarm of signals as everyone tries to make contact. We call these on-the-air mob scenes *pileups*.

The most difficult pileup occurs when everyone, including the DX station, is on the same frequency.

A good DX operator will try to make order out of chaos by imposing some rules. The most common technique is to ask for calls in order of call sign district:

“J77DR QRZ for sevens only!”

This means that J77DR only wants to hear from hams in the 7th call district. If your call sign has a number other than seven, you must remain silent and wait your turn.

As pileups become massive, the only workable solution is to spread it out. DX operators do this by transmitting on one frequency while tuning and listening through a range of frequencies.

For example, J77DR may transmit on 14190 kHz, but he will be

listening for calls from 14195 through 14210 kHz:

“J77DR QRZ, 195 to 210!”

Or he may be somewhat less specific...

“J77DR QRZ, Up 5 to 15!”

This means that he is listening 5 to 15 kHz above his transmitting frequency.

Spreading the pileup in this fashion is known as **working split**.

To make this work, you need to understand how to place your transceiver into the split frequency mode. Most modern radios have two variable frequency oscillators (VFOs) that you use to set your frequency. These separate VFOs are usually labeled A and B. When you place your radio in the **SPLIT** mode, you transmit on one VFO frequency and listen on the other. The trick is making sure that you don't have them reversed.

Your best chance of making contact in a pileup is when the DX station is working split. You can analyze their operating patterns and pick a transmit frequency that gives you the greatest chance of being heard.

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.

How many Grid Squares have you contacted?

December 11 will start off a yearlong operating event commemorating NASA, similar to the National Parks on the Air event in 2016. See nasaontheair.wordpress.com for details. Could be a fun event to participate in. Anybody done any of this?

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.

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.

If you travel, look at www.repeaterbook.com for lots of repeater information. 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. 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). He is also working on a 900mHz repeater in Stanley. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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 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.

We recently were made aware of a Silent Key from Rushville and the wife asked for assistance with his equipment. The gentleman was Bernie, K2BND, and the following is a list of what will be available. What is not sold, will most likely be taken to the Drumlins Hamfest in April.

MFJ VERSA TUNER III 9620
YAESU FT101E TRANSCEIVER
KENWOOD TS940 TRANSCEIVER
KENWOOD SM220 STATION MONITOR
KENWOOD PHONE PATCH CONTROLLER
MICRONTA 2.5 AMP POWER SUPPLY
EAR POLLUTION HEADPHONES
MICRONTA FIELD STRENGTH/SWR 21525B
15 W DUMMY LOAD
MFJ TUNABLE DSP FILTER 784B
HOWARD COMMUNICATIONS RCVR 450A
MFJ SIGNAL ENHANCER 752B

ROPE
MFJ POWER SUPPLY 45 AMP, 4245MV
GROVE MINI-TUNER
KENWOOD TH75A DUAL BAND HT, 4 BATTTS
HALLICRAFTERS SX104
HALLICRAFTERS R46B SPEAKER
REALISTIC PRO 2005 SCANNER
ELECRAFT KX3 TRANSCEIVER
AMIDON W2FMI BALUN
GAP EAGLE (?) ANTENNA, NEW IN BOX
GE MONITOR 10
PANASONIC GX600
PALOMAR TUNER (?)
J38 KEY
BENCHER PADDLE
VIBROPLEX BUG #131652
AEA MORSE MACHINE
MFJ FREQUENCY STANDARD
MFJ CLOCK (TWO SMALL DIGITALS, RACK)
TRIPP LINE STABILIZER
ALPHA DELTA WIRE ANTENNA
NATIONAL HRO-7 RECEIVER
HALLICRAFTERS SX ??? RECEIVER
Contact John WA2SSJ or Tom KB2NCI if interested.

You can find the information on line at flcc.edu and going to Library and then Library Maker Space.

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

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

Sitting here doing the Smoke Signal, I was looking at the March QST and an article on activation caught my eye. It is on page 71 and talks about the power of Activation in having fun with amateur radio. Tim W3ATB is like many of us (myself included) who have been hams for a number of years (or months) and had been quasi active. By getting outside and doing some operating, he kindled an energy in him that has greatly increased his fun with the hobby. You don't need a large, powerful station to make contacts. As they say, just put up a wire and see what you "catch". Anyway, I hope articles like that and activities the club can do, will spark your increased interest in our great hobby. The sky is the limit. And, by all means, don't keep your operating a secret. Your activity will inspire others.

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.