



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club  
Since October 7, 1953



## Smoke Signal

May 2016

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

Now that May is here, it is time to start planning for the several events in the coming months. See below and in the coming editions for those updates.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 7:30pm at the Human Resources Building, 3019 County Complex Drive, Hopewell.** This is just EAST of County Road 48. This is a temporary location for May because the usual spot will be filled with the County Auction. Our program will be on the Storm Tracker Team and presented by John Greco, KD2GTA. The meeting will follow the May session of the Laurel VE testing at 6:30pm.

### Past Events

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The April meeting was time for working on the 40 meter CW QRP transceivers and great progress was made. How is yours coming?

Our quarterly breakfast was a great success, with 19 attendees. It is a great time to shoot the breeze with your fellow hams and guests. Our next one is tentatively scheduled for July. See you there!

Dave, AB2WZ, led a group at the Safety Training Center on April 17 for the Rookie Roundup to newly licensed hams on HF. Our own KD2GTA was joined by KD2KRG to get on the air and have some fun. A few more of our group joined in to show support. I am sure it was appreciated. Also, Chris, AC2SA, activated off site and made several contacts as well. Great job everyone!

The Drumlins Hamfest was held again this year on April 23 and it was a great success. SIARC had a table there and raised about \$100 for the club

and several members sold some of their own items. I had a great time and it was fun to see so many hams there.

## Upcoming Events

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Our **next VE Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on May 11, 2016, and Dave AB2WZ is always looking for Volunteer Examiners. It will be held at the **County Human Resources Building, 3019 County Complex Drive, Hopewell**. We need to move our testing and meeting location for this meeting only, due to the annual county property auction, held at the Safety Training Center. We will be back at our usual spot in June. Contact Dave at [ab2wz@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:wd2stk@yahoo.com) for testing or to help as a VE.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: QSO parties in 7<sup>th</sup> Call Area, Indiana, Delaware, New England, Arkansas, UA2, MARAC USA, Armed Forces Day Cross Band Communications Test, and many others. See the May QST pages 79 and 92 and the WA7BNM website <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more information.

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. AC2SA, WA2SSJ and myself will be meeting with the leadership of the Women's Rights Historical Site in Seneca Falls on Monday, May 9, to work out our strategy for an activation there this summer. There will be more information to follow. See [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for more details. I plan on attending the NPOTA forum at Dayton while there.

Plans are coming together (yes, we are still making plans!) for the trip to Dayton for the Hamvention on May 19 to 22. KD2GTA, WB2VMR, KC2TCM, WD2STK, WM3D, W2WES, N2IZV, W2ACC, KD2CZW and KB2NCI are planning on attending, among others from the Rochester area. (I hope I did not leave anyone out from our group). Four of us will be leaving Thursday

morning and returning Sunday. I will be outfitting the van for HF and VHF/UHF. Should be a fun ride.

## Armed Forces Day 2016 Communication Test to Include Direct Military-Ham Contact on 60 Meters

**TAGS:** [air force](#), [Amateur Radio bands](#), [amateur radio stations](#), [annual event](#), [Armed Forces](#), [dayton hamvention](#), [Digital Modes](#), [MIL-STD Serial PSK](#), [military frequencies](#), [military radio station](#), [military stations](#), [qsl cards](#), [radio event](#), [short wave listeners](#), [shortwave listeners](#), [software program](#), [technical skills](#)

03/01/2016

This year's Armed Forces Day Crossband Communication Test on Saturday, May 14, will include a significant new wrinkle: Select military stations will be using 60 meter interoperability channels to communicate *directly* with Amateur Radio stations on the band. Back this year, select military stations will use crossband Automatic Link Establishment (2G ALE) communication as well as MIL-STD Serial PSK to send the Secretary of Defense Armed Forces Day message. Armed Forces Day 2016 is Saturday, May 21, but the radio event is held earlier to avoid conflicting with Dayton [Hamvention](#), May 20-22.

The annual Armed Forces Day Communication Test is an opportunity to exercise two-way communication capability between Amateur Radio and military stations using a variety of modes, including SSB and CW as well as digital modes. The annual event gives participants — including shortwave listeners (SWLs) — an opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station.

QSL cards will be provided to all stations that make contact with the military stations. The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard cosponsor the joint military/Amateur Radio, with military stations transmitting on military frequencies and listening on Amateur Radio bands.

Amateur Radio stations and Short Wave Listeners interested in trying the MIL-STD Serial PSK mode can [download](#) the software program, *MS-DMT*.

Full details about this year's Armed Forces Day radio activities — including stations, frequencies, times, and modes of operation — will be [posted](#) by April 12 as well as on the US Army MARS [Facebook page](#).

Now that the Drumlins Hamfest is over, Field Day planning will step up in earnest. The event is on June 25 and 26, and 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 at the May and June meetings, but you can contact Don N2VDE at [porcine2@gmail.com](mailto:porcine2@gmail.com) or Rich KC2TNJ at [tinker@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tinker@rochester.rr.com) if you would like to be involved in the organization of this. Look for us on the Field Day Locator, WA2EMO.

The Field Day shirt order has arrived and will be distributed at the May meeting. Please have your money for your order ready for me. Cash or checks made out to me, Tom Sanders, are fine. The member price for a shirt is \$10, and if you ordered anything else, it will be the regular price as listed on the ARRL website. Please have exact change.

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](http://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 RRRRA and will be Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Barnard Fireman's Field, 360 Maiden Lane, Greece. See [www.k2rra.org](http://www.k2rra.org) for more details. Talk in on 146.880- (110.9) repeater.

## RACES and ARES

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Scott, N2UMH, is looking for a few mentors for the Emergency Communications on line course that RACES will be supporting. The student does the class on line and there is an on line mentor, but Scott would like some of us to meet with the group on a couple of Saturday mornings to help with any areas of need. Contact him at [n2umh@yahoo.com](mailto:n2umh@yahoo.com) if interested.

If you do not have your Disaster Lan user name and password, contact Dave AB2WZ at [ab2wz@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:kb2nci@arrl.net) or 585-924-0752.

The **Wild Water Derby was held on Saturday, April 30 in Shortsville.** SIARC (therefore ARES) supported the event for course safety communications. The following helped with this event: KA2HQZ, KD2EHU, W2ACC, WB2VMR, KB2FSB, N2UMH, KB2TNL, WA2SSJ, KC2YGH, KB2NCI. Thanks to all who helped.

We will be planning for 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 each day 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.

Other Upcoming Public Service Events that will need our communications assistance are:

Tour De Cure, June 11—see [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) and public service for sign up/details

Red Cross Run for the Red, Canandaigua, August, details to follow

Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua, September 11, details to follow

Pumpkin Patrol, October 30 and 31.

The Skywarn training held last night was attended by 6 of our members. It was a good session and refresher for us all. See [www.weather.gov/buf/skywarn](http://www.weather.gov/buf/skywarn) for details on Skywarn.

## Odd and Ends

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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](http://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!). Norm will have a report at the meeting.

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.

Dave, W2ACC, has gotten the KD2HVC D-Star repeater back on the air in Stanley. Get on the air and try it out. It has a great footprint! Thanks Dave.

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 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.

## Nets

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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 <sup>th</sup> ) 9pm Monroe County
3993.5kHz LSB	New York State RACES net Sundays at 9am

## Club/RACES Repeaters

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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

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Field Day is approaching on June 25 and 26. It is a big event for amateur radio and SIARC and Drumlins and is always lots of fun. Don, N2VDE, and Rich, KC2TNJ, will be planning this event for the two clubs, but they cannot do it alone (nor do they want to). It is an event that invites all hams and anyone interested in operating to come and enjoy the weekend. There will be plenty to do before, during and after the weekend and the more involvement we get, the more fun and interesting it will be. Contact Don and Rich if you would like to be part of this. There will be lots of information at the next two meeting.

Have a safe May and enjoy the hobby.

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](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.

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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.