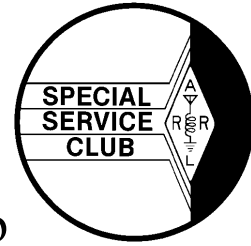




Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

September 2017

www.siarc.us

Hello to the beginning of fall and some wonderful weather. I hope you have your final plans in place for your outside work.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13, at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center in Hopewell. We will be holding elections for the upcoming year and all positions are open for nomination. I encourage all of you to consider running for a leadership position in your club. The program is to be determined. The meeting will follow the 6:30pm session of Laurel VE testing.

It is with regret that I inform you of the passing of Jack, W2QYT, of Auburn. Although he was not from our immediate area, his work in amateur radio for over 50 years touched many in central and western New York. Our condolences go out to his family.

Past Events

The club summer picnic was held on Tuesday, August 15 and was hosted by Tony, KD2HNI, at the White Springs Fire Department in Geneva. 15 attendees enjoyed the food, fellowship and what turned out to be a very nice evening. There was even a demonstration of a drone. Thank you to Tony.

Upcoming Events

September 10 is the date of the Finger Lakes Triathlon, starting and ending in Canandaigua. I have seventeen on the list of volunteers, so we should be all set, but if anyone else would like to help out, contact Tom at kb2nci@arrl.net. It is a fun day and helps out the worthy cause of the Mary Gooley Hemophilia Center in Rochester. If you cannot help, listen in on the 145.450 repeater and see what we do.

Our **next Laurel VE License Test Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on September 13, 2017, and Russ N2IZV is always looking for Volunteer Examiners. This session will be before the regular SIARC meeting at the Safety Training Center. 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 hamfests are:
Lancaster Hamfest, September 9
Elmira Hamfest, September 30

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: QSO parties in Colorado, Tennessee, Ohio State Parks on the Air, Iowa, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Washington State, Maine, Texas and many others. See the September QST pages 84 and 97 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!

Upcoming events for 2017 include:
Roc the Ride Bike MS, Rochester, September 9
Finger Lakes Triathlon, September 10
Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County, October 1
Pumpkin Patrol, October 30 and 31
Skywarn Appreciation Day, December 2
and many others that will want ham operators to assist.

Save Saturday, October 28 for our next breakfast get together. We will be meeting at the Villager Restaurant, 245 S. Main St, Canandaigua at 8am and all are welcome.

As per a request from Don, N2VDE, we have secured the Varick Fire Department for Field Day 2018. Thanks to Mickey, KD2LGM, for getting us on their calendar.

RACES and ARES

We will not have a RACES Net on Labor Day weekend.

Steve, WB2VMR, is heading up a team to learn and polish skills at Interference Tracking. The group has a radio direction finding (RDF) device that they will study up on and use. Their first order of business is to confirm the origination of an interfering digital signal on the county UHF fire frequency of 453.3125. The county uses this frequency for paging and the interference causes reception problems. Contact Steve at sbenton2@rochester.rr.com if you would like to join and help this team. If you can monitor this frequency, please give Steve reports of time of day and weather conditions when the interference occurs. This problem has been going on for several months, went away, but has returned, so we have been asked again to assist.

The four go-kits that Steve, WB2VMR, has been working on are completed and in the EOC. The final step is the programming of the memories with local repeaters. Two of the kits have Icom 880H D-Star radios and two have Yaesu FT 8800 radios, both VHF/UHF. Thanks to Steve for his work on this project.

Our next RACES/ARES drill will be in the upcoming months and will be doing a simplex test of communications from the county fire departments to the EOC, primarily on UHF to simulate the situation of their UHF repeater system going down. Stay tuned for details.

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@arrrl.net or 585-924-0752.

Another reminder, during times of severe weather, power outages, or other similar events, monitor the 145.450 repeater. There may be a net forming and a need to be met. Remember that we do not self deploy. We go to sites only at the request of the Emergency Management Office or designee (usually Scott, N2UMH).

Odd and Ends

September will see our next election for officers of the club. If you would like to get more involved with the club, contact Tom KB2NCI and he will get your name up for nomination. The current officers have been there for a few years and would like to see some new blood in the mix. All positions are open.

Did you watch the eclipse on August 21? Tony, KD2HNI, was able to travel to see Totality!!. Ask him about it.

The next Storm Trackers Weather Training net is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, at 7pm on the WA2AAZ 146.745- (pl 71.9) repeater. John KD2GTA is the Net Control and looks forward to you checking in.

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 in the U.S. Senate. It is S. 1534 and is identical to the bill that passed the House of Representatives. See QST or the ARRL website for more details on how to send a letter to our US Senators to encourage them to support and pass this legislation. It is critical that all amateurs contact their U.S. senators to ask them to support this legislation.

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. 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).

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 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.

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 write this, the folks in Texas and Louisiana are dealing with one heck of a mess and cleanup. I doubt that anyone of them could have prepared for what has happened to them as this is being reported to be a once in 300 years flood. Our hearts go out to them and send them our thoughts for a speedy (although it will take a long time) recovery. Many will have to start completely over, but with a renewed belief in our ability to help one another. I believe there have been many more stories of heroism than negatives and seeing people helping people is quite inspiring. We can do the same here in our neighborhoods. Daily acts of kindness and compassion go a long way to making life better for us all. You can even use amateur radio to help others, by spreading good will and friendship. We also help organizations that help others. Good luck to you and your family and I look forward to seeing 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.