



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

September 2023

www.siarc.us

Nice weekend to start the Labor Day Holiday. Have fun!!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13 at the Safety Training Center and will begin at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend. The meeting will follow the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm. The program will be centered on National Preparedness Month (September).

September is the time for club Election of Officers. If you are interested in being more active with the club, be prepared to have your name in the running. All offices are up for nomination.

We continue to hold the Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (except club meeting nights) so there is ample opportunity to catch up with your friends. We just had net #867 last night. Thank you to all who have checked in over the last 3+ years. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

In August, the club toured the Ontario County 911 Dispatch Center. It was a very interesting time and the interaction with the 911 crew was helpful for building bridges for RACES/ARES. Thanks to Steve for organizing this.

We assisted with course safety for the Phelps Sauerkraut Festival 5k and 20k Krauter races on August 5. It was a beautiful morning and there were not any problems on the course. Thanks to the following for helping out:

W2ODD, WB2VMR, KD2LGE, KB2FSB, KC2TCM, WD2STK, WA2SSJ, N2IZV, KB2NCI. We appreciate the use of the WA2AAZ 146.745 repeater during the event.

I know a couple of our folks have been doing some Parks on the Air activations and operating from your outdoor sites, any reports on the fun you are having? We would all be very interested in hearing from you!

Any interesting or unusual contacts made? What have you been doing with amateur radio? Build anything interesting? Let me know and I can publicize it. And you can always show it off by doing a little program for the club. Any new radios or equipment in your inventory?

Upcoming Events

The Finger Lakes Triathlon has been reborn by another group (Wolfpack Multisport) and will be held on Sunday, September 10. At this point, it looks like the swim, bike and run courses are very similar to previous years. I could use a couple of more operators, so if you have not contacted me and are interested in helping, send me an email (kb2nci@arrl.net)

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** is scheduled for September 13, 2023 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED**. Contact Sabrina, WD2STK, at testing@siarc.us if you would like to be on the list of examinees. She will also need VEs. See www.ssiarc.us under Radio Amateur Exams for complete information. Thanks to Sabrina and her team for keeping this worthwhile project up and running. We are one of the few groups to offer this service.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in Colorado, Tennessee, Alabama, Iowa, Texas, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Maine, ARRL EME contest, ARRL VHF contest,

ARRL 10GHz and up contest, North American CW and RTTY sprints, State Parks on the Air in Ohio and Wisconsin, and many others. See the September QST pages 71 and 84 and the WA7BNM website www.contestcalendar.com 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 AWA Annual Conference, Henrietta—August 26 to 30—see [2023-06-01-AWA-Conference-FLYER-FOR-WEBSITE\[46185\].pdf](#) for details.

The ARRL is sponsoring a yearlong event, **Volunteers on the Air**. It recognizes the many volunteers around the country that keep the ARRL and amateur radio growing and healthy. Check out the article in the On the Air January/February issue or www.arrl.org for details.

Hamfests in the Future:

Lancaster Hamfest, Transit Road, Lockport—September 9
ARAST (Elmira) Hamfest, Horseheads—September 30

The **Antique Wireless Association** is working on a project to bring amateur radio and all of its fun to school age children by constructing a portable station that could be taken to the students. They are looking for any interested parties to help with this project. Below are their goals for the program:

Goal: To introduce and educate children about communication technologies as a component of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) by:

- a. Constructing a self-contained, portable amateur radio station transportable in an enclosed cargo trailer for the purpose of educating and demonstrating to children the basics of wireless communications during good times and in emergencies; and
- b. Supporting a special effort to reach out to our region's underserved rural communities; and
- c. Facilitating visits to schools, scouts, libraries, camps, homeschool groups, fairs and public service events; and
- d. Supporting AWA's educational outreach efforts, which extend well beyond the AWA campus.

If you are interested, please contact Bob Hobday at president@antiquewireless.org

RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

Thank you to the Ontario County Emergency Management Office for its continued support.

We held an evening meeting in August and it was well attended. Some of the topics covered were: **Membership**—currently at 32 but several are inactive.

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test—we will participate in early November, contact Steve to help plan the exercise.

RACES repeaters—The Yaesu repeater has been installed at Gannett Hill on 145.450 and it sounds and works great. The Bridgecom repeater at Gannett Hill will be reprogrammed to be placed in service at the Geneva City Hall EOC site.

ARES membership—Steve has received forms from 17 so far and is encouraging all interested hams to join. ARES does not have the same strict membership rules that RACES does so is a little easier to join and help your community.

ICS Training—It is our goal to have all our members complete the following ICS courses: 100, 200, 700 and 800. All are available on line and increase your understanding of our place and how to work within the framework of Emergency Management.

AuxComm training---there will be an AuxComm training offered by the NYS Department of Homeland Security on November 14 to 16 in Oriskany, NY. There are 30 spots available and we have 4 from our group going, but there should be room for others. Contact Steve WB2VMR if interested.

Finger Lakes Triathlon—we will support this event this year on September 10 and any interested members and contact Tom KB2NCI at kb2nci@gmail.com to sign up to help.

The next **RACES meeting** will be held on Thursday, September 21 at 9am in the Safety Training Center. The next training will be in October and will go over the November SET. All RACES members are encouraged and welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining ARES/RACES, please attend or contact us as well.

Public Service Events for 2023 include:

--Finger Lakes Triathlon, Ontario County, September 10—email kb2nci@gmail.com

-Wilmot Cancer Institute Wilmot Breakaway Ride--- September 30 (the 75 mile course will come down as far as Canandaigua and Bloomfield after beginning in Henrietta)—contact Mike KC2NM at mikemoore@ieee.org if you are interested in volunteering.

-Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County—October 1—Randy N1PTB could use a few more operators to ride the event bus transportation for the event. Having a D-Star handheld is very helpful. Contact him at n1ptb@outlook.com

-Pumpkin Patrol, NYS Thruway overpasses, October 30 and 31—help will be needed. Contact Dave KB2KBY at kb2kby@rochester.rr.com

Mark your calendars to help out.

September is **National Preparedness Month**. See www.ready.gov for information and ideas.

I encourage all of you to check into our **weekly RACES/ARES nets**, which are on Sundays at 8pm (except around holidays) (you are invited to check into any other net also) and practice those skills that someday you may be called upon to use. They are held on the W2ONT 145.450- (pl 110.9) repeater. We are also looking for additional stations to practice being Net Control and Assistant Net Control. In the event we are called out, having experience as Net Control will be very beneficial. We will be migrating to a more digital usage for the nets. Use of FLDIGI and MT63 will be very important for our mission to assist the Emergency Management Office. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at kb2nci@arrl.net or 585-924-0752. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please contact me or our Radio Officer, Steve WB2VMR. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep it as current as possible.

-----NEW-----

Starting March 26, we will be holding a practice session in Sending FLDIGI on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm before the 8pm Net. These sessions will also be on the W2ONT 145.450- (110.9) repeater. These are to give you practice at sending a message digitally. As those that participated can tell you, Murphy likes to visit your station during this time. Please try to join us. The NCS for the evening will start these up at 7:30pm.

The New York State RACES net is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 3993.5khz LSB and members are always welcome and to get some more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 3583.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try!

Monitor the W2ONT 145.450 repeater in times of severe weather or area wide power outages. And if you do not hear anyone, start up an informal ARES net.

The FCC is considering a **change to the amateur allocation in the 60m band**. Currently we have 5 channels with max power of 100 watts ERP and it is proposed to change to 15khz of continuous bandwidth with 9 (yes, nine) watts ERP. Complete information can be found at [ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band](#)

Member Profile and Picture

No volunteers for September. Anyone for October and beyond?

Odd and Ends

The new Yaesu Fusion/Analog repeater purchase was approved by the membership in July and Steve WB2VMR reports that the repeater is scheduled to be shipped late in August. When programmed, it will be placed in service in the VA tower to replace the Vertex VHF repeater we have been using on 146.820mhz for several years. It was a great opportunity to get a new repeater for only \$700 and add the capability of Fusion to the site. Since we do not have internet access up there, it will be stand alone, but adds another mode to our club. The call sign and frequency will remain the same.

UPDATE--The repeater has arrived and Steve is finishing the programming so we expect it to be installed in September.

Other items of interest from the AWA:

Learn it, Build It, Fix It Boot Camp class [Vacuum-Tube-Basic-Radio-Repair-101-Class-Info-Flyer-3\[46184\].pdf](#)

Learn It, Build It, Fix It Vacuum Tube Guitar Amplifier [Vacuum-Tube-Guitar-Amps-Class-Info-Flyer-2\[46183\].pdf](#)

Check them out!! Thanks to Pat KD2PER for providing these flyers to me.

May 3, 2023, the transition period ends for all amateur transmitters to be compliant with the FCC Exposure Rules. We have had two years to get into compliance and now the time

has come to “get ‘er done”. The complete article is in the May QST, pages 64, 65 and 66. It is our time to show the FCC that we can follow the rules for safe operation of our stations. You can also go to [RF Exposure Calculator \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org)

The Maritime Mobile Services Net (mmsn.org) operates daily on 14.300mhz from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times.

A few months ago, I asked for some assistance with a couple of areas and these are the folks I tapped.

Technical Committee Chair—Steve WB2VMR

Programs—Sandy KA2HQZ

Publicity—Doug KD2LGE

Please contact them if you would like to assist in their area or have ideas.

A new **RF Exposure Calculator** has been added to the Links on the SIARC website.

For all the new hams, are you aware of QRZ.com? It is a wealth of information on hams WORLDWIDE and carries informative articles, editorials. It is editable by the individual ham so can be updated as often as you like. They also have a logger for your contacts. Check it out!

I would encourage all ARRL members to check out the new publication the League has introduced, “On the Air”, aimed at new hams and those experienced hams that have some questions. The July/August issue covers many topics, including articles on The Language of Power: ERP, VHF ing on Vacation, Talking About Traffic and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership. Your membership allows you to see the digital version of all of their periodicals QST, QEX and NCJ.

Discover the ARRL Learning Center and how to “Make Amateur Radio Your Own” at [Make Amateur Radio Your Own | ARRL Learning Center](http://arrl.org). Give a look-see!!

NEW REPEATERS:

The W2WDS 146.985- (82.5) repeater is up and running in Naples. This is the former frequency for the N2LSJ repeater in Penn Yan. There is also an APRS I-Gate at this site. This

repeater is linked to the WB2KAO 444.850+ (110.9) repeater in Greece only on Saturday nights for the Green Eggs and Hams Net.

There is a **new 6 meter repeater** on the air, from Naples. The call sign is W2WDS. It is on a tower site space provided by Dean, W2WDS, and the frequency is 53.110- (pl 82.5). The **440 repeater on the same site**, 442.500+ (82.5) is on the air as well. The 442.500 is linked to the WB2KAO repeater 444.850+ (110.9) in Greece. Many of our members have been getting on the air with 6 meters. Looks like fun. Thanks to Dave W2ACC and Dean W2WDS for these upgrades.

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. Steve has also started posting the Minutes of the Board Meetings, which will be held at various times throughout the year. Thanks to Steve, KD2OM, for keeping the website up to date.

For local repeaters, you can go to www.rochesterham.org and click on Useful Links 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.

If you travel, look at www.repeaterbook.com for lots of repeater information. They have an app for your phone that shows repeaters within 50 miles of where you are. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information.

W2ACC has repeaters up in Romulus 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. The 220mHz 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).

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. He would love to hear from you! You can also send your renewals to me, Tom Sanders at 6310 Gillis Road, Victor, NY 14564 and I will forward to Stan.

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. canceling 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 (\$15) and renewal (\$5) 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.

Nets

STILL GOING---Since March 17, 2020, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820 repeater, nightly at 8pm, Monday through Friday. It is intended as a net for hams to keep in contact with others during the virus situation. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net #867 and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK	Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net
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	Sundays at 9am New York State RACES net

Club/RACES Repeaters

K2BWK	146.820- (110.9) Canandaigua
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

September brings us club elections. All positions are open for nomination and if you would like to become more involved with the club, this is a great way to do it. Many of the current officers have been in those spots for a while and although they have done a great job, new ideas are always welcome and encouraged. Keeping the club active and vibrant is important for its health and you can be a part of it. Please consider placing your name in the ring for any of the offices. We will hold the election on September 13.

As we head into fall, the hamfest season is coming to an end as well as the public service season. Both are popular parts of amateur radio and help us to comply with the FCC rules whose principles are:

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles: (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art. (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts. (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

These two activities help us to fulfill the above. I encourage you to participate in as many of these throughout the year as possible and to begin planning for 2024 now.

Take care of yourself and each other.

Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio, Be Safe and I hope to catch you on the radio!
Get Active/Get Involved!

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

kb2nci@arrl.net

585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

The Amateur's Code^[L]_[SEP] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[L]_[SEP] The Radio

^[L]_[SEP] Amateur is:

^[L]_[SEP] CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.^[L]_[SEP]

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.