



# Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

## Smoke Signal

September 2024

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

End of summer and Labor Day weekend is here. I trust you had an enjoyable summer and are ready (station wise) for the changing weather.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. All are welcome. Our program in September will be by Pat KD2PER and will cover Educational Opportunities at the AWA. By the way, they have updated the name to the Communications Technologies Museum. Keeping up with the times! There will NOT be VE testing in September, but we will have Election of Officers in September.

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 hit net #1102 last Friday, so thank you to all who have checked in over the last 4 years. I hope you all can check in.

### Past Events

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We supported the Phelps Sauerkraut Festival "Krauter" 5 and 20K races on August 3. Ten hams helped with course safety communications to the more than 200 runners during this fun weekend. Thanks to the Drumlins Club for our use of their 146.745 repeater. Those who participated were: WB2VMR, KC2TCM, WD2STK, KD2LGE, W2LVP, W2ODD, KB2FSB, KD2DNO, WA2SSJ and KB2NCI.

I was able to assist with the Mammoth March in August. It is an event where hikers walk 20 miles over 8 hours through Letchworth State Park. Monroe County ARES took the lead for communications for this event that saw challenging radio conditions. I was fortunate to work the day with Ross KC2LOC. The organizers had asked for assistance since the

radio equipment they tried to use before did not give them the coverage they needed. The hams were able to use VHF simplex from portable stations in the park to get the job done. It was fun and showed our merit.

Our August breakfast was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lincoln on Main restaurant in Canandaigua. 11 hams attended and it always a fun time visiting over food and coffee. Look for the next one in February.

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!

The ROC City Hamfest was held on August 24. Any stories or great bargains found? Let me know!

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?

If you have assisted in any public service events that I may not be aware of, please let me know so you can be acknowledged.

## Upcoming Events

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The club Election of Officers will be held at the September 11 meeting. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please get nominated. All positions are open.

We are supporting the Finger Lakes Triathlon out of Canandaigua, on Sunday September 8. Please let me know if you want to assist. [kb2nci@gmail.com](mailto:kb2nci@gmail.com).

Upcoming Hamfests are:

Lancaster, NY, Hamfest, September 7

Elmira Hamfest, Horseheads, NY, September 28

The new Yaesu Repeater has arrived and is in the process of being programmed and installed at the VA tower soon. We will keep the current repeater on site in case it is needed.

The Laurel VE testing session for September has been canceled. The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on November 13, 2024. The session will begin at 6:30pm. If you need to test before November, see [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) for options. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team of dedicated volunteer examiners. You provide a great service to the ham radio community. She will need VEs to help administer the exams, so please contact her if you can help. See the SIARC website, Exam page, for details.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in Tennessee, Ohio State Parks, New Jersey, Iowa, Texas, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Maine, North American CW Sprint, ARRL September VHF contest, ARRL EME Contest, ARRL 10GHZ and Up Contest lots of Parks on the Air stations, and many others. See the September QST pages 73 and 84 and the WA7BNM website [www.contestcalendar.com](http://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!

#### **Upcoming Public Service activities for 2024 (as of this date):**

Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua, September 8  
Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County, October 6  
Pumpkin Patrol, Thruway Bridges, October 30 and 31

We are fortunate to be invited to help with all of these events, so please make time next year to help as much as you can. It provides many opportunities to practice our skills to fulfill our mandate for the Amateur Radio Service from the FCC.

Learn It, Build It, Fix It (LIBIFI) Classes are opportunities for adults to learn about vacuum tube technology while building and/or repairing their equipment. For over half a decade, the AWA Educational Institute has been the premier source of hands-on technical education designed for Do It Yourself (DIY) electronics enthusiasts.

[2024 AWA LearnitBuilditFixit Classes](#)

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](mailto:president@antiquewireless.org)

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

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

The next RACES admin meeting is schedule for Thursday, September 19 at 9am at the Safety Training Center. Contact Steve WB2VMR if you are interested in becoming a member of RACES or ARES.

Steve WB2VMR held an organizational ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) meeting in May. All interested parties should have attended. If you would like to join, contact Steve at [sbenton2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sbenton2@rochester.rr.com) Stay tuned for further information.

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@gmail.com](mailto:kb2nci@gmail.com) 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 the roster as current as possible.

The **New York State RACES net** is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 7281khz LSB and members are always welcome to check in and get more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 7081.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. These are the frequencies for the summer months. We will switch back to 80m during the winter. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try! NYS RACES is also doing testing on 60 meters. It is a great band for these regional communications, so all members should have that capability.

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.

To receive emails on a national basis for ARES, ARRL members can subscribe to the ARES Letter by going to the ARRL website, Public Service tab, ARES tab, ARES Letter and then "How to Subscribe". It is a very informative publication.

## Odd and Ends

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Remember that club dues need to be renewed in September. If you are not a Life member (only \$100), be sure to see Stan to keep current.

There are lots of new hams in the area due to the great success of the local VE testing program. If you hear a new license (many are KE2xxx) be sure to call them and welcome them to the hobby.

Don't forget to add 146.520 simplex to your scan routine. It is a good frequency to find and help hams traveling through our area.

From the County Administrator's Newsletter and the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles:  
**DMV The Federal REAL ID deadline is now May 7, 2025. Though not mandatory, we encourage everyone to obtain a REAL ID compliant identification today! For more information please visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/federal-real-id>**

A STAR in the upper right corner of your license indicates a REAL ID.

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### *ARLB007 FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users*

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented.

Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The Public Notice can be found in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-219A1.pdf> .

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp>, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

NNNN

/EX From the ARRL Letter 3-22-2024.

A new link, **NY weather MESONET**, has been added to the SIARC website. It is a map of weather stations around New York State operated by the University at Albany, Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. Check it out!! [NYS Mesonet](#)

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 2023 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 \(arrl.org\)](#)

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has designated **14.300Mhz** as a worldwide center of activity frequency for emergency traffic. There are two nets that run from 7am to 10pm eastern time daily. The **Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net**, aka Intercon, ([www.intercontinentalnet.org](http://www.intercontinentalnet.org)) operates from 7am to noon and the **Maritime Mobile Services Net** ([www.mmsn.org](http://www.mmsn.org)) operates daily from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times. Listen in for some interesting conversations.

During hurricane season, you can find some interesting traffic from the **Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org)** on 14.325Mhz days and 7.268Mhz nights.

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 Resonance, Step by



Step Approach to Learning Morse Code, Using Prowords for Better Voice Communications, and many others. It is available on the website with your ARRL membership. Your membership also 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](#). 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](http://www.rochesterham.org) and click on Useful Links to find a quick reference. You can also go to [www.unyrepco.org](http://www.unyrepco.org) and [www.wnysorc.org](http://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](http://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. Another ham site with useful information for New York state is Upstate Ham [Upstate NY HAM Radio News & Information \(upstateham.com\)](http://Upstate NY HAM Radio News & Information (upstateham.com)) with many repeater lists. And for scanner listeners, go to [www.radioreference.com](http://www.radioreference.com) for nationwide information on repeaters and public safety.



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](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. 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 work 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

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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 (except meeting nights). It is intended as a net for hams to keep in contact with others. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net #1102 and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK  
145.450- (110.9) W2ONT  
146.745- (71.9) WA2AAZ  
146.610- (110.9) W2ARM  
7281 kHz LSB

Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net  
Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES training net  
Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES net  
Thursdays 7pm Monroe County ARES/RACES net  
Sundays at 9am New York State RACES net

## Club/RACES Repeaters

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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  
W2ONT 147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall  
KD2HYJ D-Star 444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

## President's Thoughts

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September!! Many things to do in this month and much of it has to do with preparing for the colder weather season. Besides getting the yard ready, wood stacked, outside house repairs done and enjoying what can usually be a month of very nice days, there is prepping your amateur radio station for more time inside. Now is a good time to check those connections and support structures for problems. Have you checked the ropes that support your wires or those PL 259s? The last thing I want is an antenna coming down. Be sure to ask for assistance if you need it (meetings and the health and welfare nets are a great time to do that). I wish you a happy autumn and lots of ham radio pleasures.

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@gmail.com](mailto:kb2nci@gmail.com)

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.