



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

October 2017

www.siarc.us

Greetings for October and fall colors. The past few weeks have been glorious and I hope you had ample time to enjoy them.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 County Road 48, Canandaigua and all are welcome. The program will be by Jay, KC2TCM, and cover FLDIGI and various digital modes. Bring your laptop so you can follow along.

Past Events

Members from SIARC and Drumlins supported the Finger Lakes Triathlon on September 10 and provided course safety communications for the 600 plus participants in their efforts to raise money for the Mary Gooley Hemophilia Center of Rochester. Those helping were KA2HQZ, W2WES, WA2SSJ and wife Linda, KD2GMX, KD2DNO, N2JOR, N2IZV, KD2CZW, N2EZY, KD2EHU, WB2VMR, WB2GGM, KB2NCI. Our work is appreciated and I am grateful for everyone's support. See you in 2018.

Our Laurel testing session garnered a new technician, Todd KD2ODD and upgrade to extra for Karl K5KHK. Todd even became a member of the club. Congratulations to both.

Elections for the next year were held and the following are the officers of the club:

President—Tom Sanders KB2NCI

Vice President—Steve Benton WB2VMR

Secretary—Ray Dreimiller AB2UY

Treasurer—Stan Avery WM3D

Directors—John Park WA2SSJ

John Greco KD2GTA

Dave Hunter N2EZY

Bob Hess KD2GMX

Liaison to Drumlins ARC—Jay Hamill KC2TCM

Welcome to new members Dave and Bob

Please contact us with any concerns or suggestions.

Upcoming Events

PUMPKIN PATROL 2017-OCTOBER 30th & 31st

It is Pumpkin Patrol time once again and volunteers are needed. The Squaw Island and Drumlins ARCs are once again working together to cover the 9 'posts' covering all the bridges of the Thruway in Ontario County. Help will be needed both nights of **OCTOBER 30th and 31st, MONDAY and TUESDAY nights** on the bridges from 8:00PM to midnight. (You need to arrive prior to that time per instructions sent, please.)

Volunteers are STILL needed for the bridge sitting of the 18 posts (9 posts/night)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Between the two ARC memberships it is hoped enough volunteers would give their time so any one volunteer would have to bridge sit one night at a bridge! If you can volunteer one night, please, specify which one night you prefer. (You may volunteer for both nights of course but I normally put the opposite night as a substitute if needed.) Volunteers are located as close to their QTH as possible. But the earlier you volunteer for a bridge it is easier to do. So, contact me as soon as you can, please. (To make a usually boring evening go by faster bring another operator or friend or family member. It is okay.)

When you volunteer, PLEASE, give the **PLATE NUMBER** of the vehicle you will be using. The plate number helps the local Police, Sheriff and Troop 'E' agencies know better who you are and why you are there. Also, please give your **CELL PHONE #** just in case radio comms fail, plus your **QTH ADDRESS** for the snail mail and EMAIL contacts. (If you had volunteered last year and all info is the same just remind me.)

Bridge watchers will have materials 'snail' mailed to them provided by Troop 'T' and me the week prior. The quicker the "posts" are covered the materials can be sent out. Any last minute changes material can mostly be emailed.

Thank you!

73 & 88,

Dave (Taylor) KB2KBY
H: 315-597-4293 (Leave a message on my 'machine.')

kb2kby(at)rochester.rr.com
(Last resort: C# 315-871-8767)

Our **next Laurel VE License Test Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on November 8, 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 Contests and Special Events this month include: QSO parties in New York, California, Arizona, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Illinois, Telephone Pioneers QSO party, ARRL School Club Roundup, ARRL EME contest, CQ Worldwide DX Contest, and many others. See the October QST pages 94 and 102 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:
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. Following the breakfast, we will have a board of directors meeting. All are welcome to that as well.

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

The 911 center now has the capability to alert us using texting, so please be sure that John WA2SSJ has your current contact information to include a number to receive texts.

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.

Ontario County will be holding an open house on Saturday, October 14, and we have been asked to create a display for RACES. Scott and Steve will be leading our effort and among other things, we will be displaying the 4 Go-Kits that were recently completed. More details will be coming out soon.

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@arrl.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

Recently it came to my attention that there may be questions from new hams about the hobby that we could do a better job as a club in answering. At our first board of directors meeting, following the Breakfast on October 28, we will be discussing a future project to address this need. Contact me if you have those questions or would like to participate in this.

The next Storm Trackers Weather Training net is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, at 7pm on the WA2AAZ 146.745- (pl 71.9) repeater. John KD2GTA is the Net Control and looks forward to you checking in.

Recently, Steve WB2VMR, Steve KD2OM, John WA2SSJ and myself made a visit to the 146.820 repeater site to inspect it. The repeater itself looks good, but the feedline needs some attention and the antenna is decades old. So it was decided to cut off a few feet at the top of the coax and replace the connector and also to replace the antenna with the old 145.450 antenna which WB2VMR has gone through and says works well. We will hopefully be completing this project by the end of the month and the repeater will continue to serve us well for many more years.

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. **If you have not done so, please do so today.**

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 the seasons change and we prepare for the colder months, I am looking forward to having some time to do some HF and maybe work on some more countries. I would also like to do some more with our D-star repeaters, which Steve KD2OM and Larry N2MLH have recently enhanced to facilitate better usage with the newer generations of radios. I look forward to helping with the Pumpkin Patrol and attending the Skywarn Appreciation Day in Buffalo. Hopefully we will not have the weather calamities that have affected several part of our country. We are usually pretty lucky here, but you never know what may happen and we should be prepared. That includes having your home and family ready.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our events and meetings and I encourage you to get involved with hobby activities and explore what amateur radio has to offer.

See you at the Breakfast on the 28th.

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.