



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

November 2013

www.siarc.us

Oh, the fire feels good in the stove. I am glad we have not seen ----flakes (cannot say that word) yet, but I fear they will be here soon. Get prepared now. Any last minute antenna projects to finish?

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 13 at 7:30pm. Our program will be by Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC, on the recent Monroe County multi-agency drill, including RACES. I am sure Ross will give an informative talk. He will be first on the agenda, so don't be late.

Past Events

We again supported the Pumpkin Patrol to watch Thruway bridges in Ontario and Wayne counties on October 30 and 31. Coordinator Dave Taylor, KB2KBY, assembled operators from SIARC and Drumlins ARC to cover their posts from 8pm to midnight. See Dave's letter and picture below:

PUMPKIN PATROL 2013
THANK YOU !

Another year for the Pumpkin Patrol has ended and many many "Thanks!" going out to all our volunteers that helped make this Halloween safe once gain for Troop T and the NYS Thruway.

I was in the Palmyra Post Office mailing out the volunteer manila packets and the attendant, Courtney, saw my return address with the "Pumpkin Patrol Coordinator" on the label. She questioned the meaning. Well, have you ever seen this kid pass up a chance like that? Hi hi! If you know me well, I tend to have a hard time shutting up. When I'm quiet you know that is not normal. Even my daughter accuses me of "Dad, you could strike up a conversation with a toilet seat cover." She is right! The "throne" has had a lot of time with me cursing, reading and keeping the seat warm. Hi hi! Well, I explained the whole Pumpkin

Patrol to Courtney and she was impressed and was glad I 'educated her.' She did not know us 'hams' did this at all.

Yes, we are many times the unsung 'heroes' of many deeds as amateurs helping in the service to the public. The pay is terrible-zilch-and the time taken from other things is in pretty good chunks at times. My XYL reminds me often of my gratis time commitment. So it is appropriate we 'pat ourselves on the back' and I thank the following: KC2TNJ, KD2DNO, WA2LEE, KC2TCM, WD2STK, K2MPE, N2MKT, KB2TNL, W1YX, KB2NCI, N2UMH, N9SBY, K2OEQ, WB1QKO, N2ZVP, KB2FSB, N2DIT, W2KRH, N2IZV, N2TKR, AB2ZI, KC2YGH and WB2VMR. This does not include club members who said they were available but positions were filled so I put them on a 'reserve' list.

I thank the many volunteers who did commit so the goal of one op/night was a reality! In our busy lives and many stages of work or retirement, it is very hard to find the time for such a commitment driving to, doing your assigned duty for four hours and driving home makes for a good 5-6 hour slice of time out of one's life. I had enough volunteers for two substitutes for each night, 'just in case,' and for the first year a 'rover' who checked on bridge sitters and offered a 'break and/or coffee.' Each night NCS had an extra 'ham' to take away the boredom and keep log keeping easier. Quite a few volunteers had their APRS working as well just for fun. And it is kinda fun but at the same time we all have other "things we can do and places to go" as the expression states.

So, THANK YOU, one and all for your help and the time you took. For that small time period out of the rest of the year, Troop T has an easier job and a safer watch for the public good for two nights and eight hours. With the prospect of what could be and could happen, your time 'just sitting there' is priceless! "F.B." to all of you from me. Well done!

73 & 88, Dave KB2KBY
Pumpkin Patrol Coordinator for
SIARC & DARC

TNX, VOLUNTEERS!



Troop T



HALLOWEEN
OCTOBER 31, 2013



73 € 88 DAVE
KB2KBY

Dues are payable in September for the next year. Still \$10 for 1 year, \$14 for a family and \$100 for Life membership. Contact Stan to pay your dues.

In October, Steve KD2OM, Steve WB2VMR and myself KB2NCI, made a trip to the VA to check out the K2BWK 146.820 repeater. After a few minutes of finding someone to let us into the tower, we made our way to the top and set out to see how it was working. We found the repeater itself to be in fine shape. The reduced efficiency, we believe, is due to water in the feedline and possible tuning of the antenna (swr was a little high). We thought about replacing the antenna, but due to high cost, we will work on replacing the harness to the antenna and placing a loaned Ringo Ranger (thanks Ray AB2UY) while

WB2VMR checks out the hardware at his home. We will keep you apprised on the progress. In the meantime, go ahead and use the 146.820 as it works fairly well.

We held our latest breakfast on October 26. We had a very nice attendance and plans will be made for the next one in January.

Upcoming Events

Contests and Special Events this month include: QSO party in Kentucky, November CW and Phone Sweepstakes, Worked All Europe, ARRL EME, and many others. See the November QST pages 87 and 90 or the WA7BNM website <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more information.

Skywarn Recognition Day will be held December 7 (Remember Pearl Harbor) and I am planning on driving to the Buffalo NWS office to participate. Please contact me if you would like to go or ride along.

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 11 and will be held at the AWA Museum. We will assemble at 6:30 for a tour of the new facility and then adjourn for our meal. Details to follow.

Odds and End

Does anyone scan the new digital public service frequencies? I have been working on programming my Uniden Trunk Tracker scanner, but I am still working on it. Has anyone seen or purchased the Uniden Home Patrol scanner? Before I invest in this one, I would like to see one in action. Please contact me if you have knowledge of them. Thanks, Tom

Please be sure to inform Stan WM3D and Tom KB2NCI if you change your preferred email address, or other changes in your contact information.

A reminder to renew your ARRL membership thru 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.

See the Radio Reference website at www.radioreference.com/apps/db/ for interesting information on all sorts of radio related items. There are areas for public service, ham radio and live feeds for all over the country. It is fun to watch the changes in public service frequencies as all agencies ramp up for the new requirements to conserve bandwidth, and

it helps you listen to our fine emergency services personnel. I have programmed my digital scanner with the new frequencies, but have heard very little activity. **Ontario County changed over to the new 700MHz system on October 9.** (Let me know if you hear anything. There is still some cross band on the fire and ems frequencies so I will be very interested. Editor)

November is the next month (every odd month) that **SIARC offers VE license testing.** The session begins at 6:30pm and please contact Dave AB2WZ at d1161f@aol.com to preregister. Dave is also always looking for additional hams (at least general class) to be VEs.

Nets

145.450 (110.9) W2ONT Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES training net
146.685 (no tone) WA2EMO Sundays 8:45pm Wayne County RACES net
146.610 (110.9) N2MPE Thursdays (except 4th) 9pm Monroe County ARES net
3993.5 kHz LSB State RACES net Sundays 9am

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
W2ONT 147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall---off the air for now

President's Thoughts

November is our month to reflect and be thankful for what we have around us. It is more than the big meal late this month, but that it is a good time to take a few minutes to think about it and enjoy what you have. I am planning on having a few days off from work and being with my family. We get to share so few meals together now that two are in college so this will be special.

I wish you and yours a happy month.

Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio.

73, Tom KB2NCI

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