



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

November 2017

www.siarc.us

Hello all and welcome to November. October was another gift and I hope you enjoyed the time to be outside. Even Halloween night was not that bad!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center. This will follow the final 2017 Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm. Not sure what the post-business meeting will entail, but I will work to make it interesting.

Past Events

We had our breakfast this past Saturday at the Villager Restaurant. There were 18 in attendance and it was great to see 3 of our friends from Monroe County in attendance. Look for our next one in January.

This past Monday and Tuesday nights, we participated in the annual Pumpkin Patrol covering the Thruway bridges in Ontario County. This event places radio operator volunteers, usually amateur radio, at each bridge on the Thruway from New York City to the Pennsylvania border. The purpose is to deter hooligans from throwing items on the traffic below and causing injury or worse. (You did hear about the teenagers in Michigan that recently did that and killed a man!). Our bridges were covered by hams from the Drumlins ARC, SIARC and Ontario County ARES/RACES and we work with Troop T of the NYS Thruway authority from 8pm to midnight. Those participating over the two nights were: W2WES, KA1CNF, KC2TNJ, KD2DNO, KD2FCX, KD2AVK, KB2FSB, WD2STK, KC2TCM, AB2XM, KC2RZM, N0EK, W2WBD, N9SBY, N2DIT, KA2HQZ, WE2LEW, KC2YGH, WB2VMR, and KB2NCI. Our group is organized by KB2KBY and there were not any incidents to report. Fine Job everyone. See you in 2018.

Upcoming Events

Our **next VE 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 Kentucky, ARRL EME Contest, ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CQ-WE contest, CQ Worldwide DX CW contest and many others. See the November QST pages 93 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:

All done for the year. Thank you for your participation and I look forward to working with you all in 2018.

Skywarn Recognition Day with the National Weather Service will be held on December 2 this year and I am hopeful to attend again. Anyone interested in going to Buffalo that day is asked to contact Tom.

There will be a Skywarn training class on Wednesday, November 15, at 6:30pm sponsored by the Ontario County Emergency Management Office at 3019 County Complex Drive, Hopewell (same place we have our May meetings). I don't believe there is advanced registration required and all are welcome.

Board of Directors

Minutes from our meeting this past Saturday.

Hello all,

We had a nice meeting after the breakfast this past Saturday. I will try to summarize what we discussed.

Attending were: Steve WB2VMR, Stan WM3D, Dave N2EZY, Bob KD2GMX, Jay KC2TCM, Tom KB2NCI
Guests: Sandy KA2HQZ, Don N2VDE

We talked about a mentoring program and trying to help new hams and those with questions. Dave AC2BX loaned us his Technician study guide and Dave N2EZY took ownership of the project. Dave can use the study guide to develop topics that new hams would want to know more about and understand better. He will rework a questionnaire I came up with a while back to gather information of interests of our members. Those will be presented at the November meeting. This could develop into a meeting program type format or be done in separate time slots. Dave will keep us informed of the progress.

Our Christmas Party will be at the AWA again this year and be held on Wednesday, December 13.

I updated the board on the status of the 146.820 repeater at the VA and mentioned that I had heard that they may be changing the use of the tower for radio antennas. We will hold off on any more work to the repeater until we get this ironed out.

Activities for 2018: Possible special event stations at the City Pier, Women's Rights Historical Site, Pagent of Steam, Others?

There will be a Makers Faire on November 18 in Rochester. I believe that

RARA will have a table there. This could be a good source for new (and younger) hams.

Possible programs:

Software Defined Radios (Dave?)

Ways to improve your computer (Jay)

WWII Re-enactment (Gib?)

High Altitude Balloons

EMS Programs

After the meeting, the board approved the purchase of an ARRL book to be raffled off (at no cost) to members at the Christmas Party. Tom will order this week. Tom will order a 2018 Handbook.

This format seemed to work so the next Board meeting will be after the January breakfast.

Thanks for coming.

Tom KB2NCI

RACES and ARES

The 145.450 repeater has been off the air for a couple weeks, following the wind storm we suffered on a Sunday night. WB2VMR and myself have been up to evaluate and part of it needs to be reworked. Steve is working diligently to get it up and running soon, so please be patient. We will announce when it is operational. In the meantime, the 146.820 and 442.200 repeaters are still functional and I encourage you to use them.

Our Sunday night RACES nets will be held until further notice on the WA2AAZ 146.745-(pl 71.9) repeater in Newark. We tried to use the 146.820 repeater for the nets, but there is another net on the Lockport 146.820 repeater at the same time and we don't want to interfere with them.

Thank you to Drumlins for their support.

On Saturday, October 14, the county held an open house at most of their facilities and WA2SSJ, WB2VMR and KB2NCI manned a table at the Safety Training Center to show off some of our equipment and capabilities. We had two of our newly prepared Go-Kits, APRS map, and other items to inform how we can help the county. Several dignitaries, including the County Administrator, stopped by.

As a reminder, WA2SSJ is updating the RACES roster and every member needs to be sure he has your most current contact information. This includes a phone number that you can receive texts on, which the 911center can now use to alert us. Let me know if you need John's contact information.

Communications Interoperability Training with Amateur Radio Community.

10/24/2017

Elements of the US Department of Defense (DOD) will conduct a "communications interoperability" training exercise November 4-6, once again simulating a "very bad day" scenario. Amateur Radio and MARS organizations will take part.

"This exercise will begin with a national massive coronal mass ejection event which will impact the national power grid as well as all forms of traditional communication, including landline telephone, cellphone, satellite, and Internet connectivity," Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, explained in an announcement.

During the exercise, a designated DOD Headquarters entity will request county-by-county status reports for the 3,143 US counties and county equivalents, in order to gain situational awareness and to determine the extent of impact of the scenario. Army and Air Force MARS organizations will work in conjunction with the Amateur Radio community, primarily on the 60-meter interoperability channels as well as on HF NVIS frequencies and local VHF and UHF, non-Internet linked Amateur Radio repeaters.

Again this year, a military station on the east coast and the Fort Huachuca, Arizona, HF station will conduct a high-power broadcast on 60-meter

channel 1 (5330.5 kHz) on Saturday from 0300 to 0315 UTC. New this year will be an informational broadcast on Sunday, on 13,483.5 kHz USB from 1600 to 1615 UTC. Amateur Radio operators should monitor these broadcasts for more information about the exercise and how they can participate in this communications exercise, English said.

“We want to continue building on the outstanding cooperative working relationship with the ARRL and the Amateur Radio community,” English said. “We want to expand the use of the 60-meter interop channels between the military and amateur community for emergency communications, and we hope the Amateur Radio community will give us some good feedback on the use of both the 5-MHz interop and the new 13-MHz broadcast channels as a means of information dissemination during a very bad day scenario.

Russell Harris AAA2R5
Region 2 Army MARS Plans & Emergency Officer
585-738-0321

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.

Odd and Ends

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 headed to the U.S. Senate as S.1534. See QST or the ARRL website for more details on how you can have your voice heard.

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 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 we head into the last of the year and expected cooler weather, it might be a good time to head to the shack and clean up and organize. I always have good intentions when I descend to my "cave", but often get redirected to other projects or even try to get on HF or D-Star. There is so much to enjoy and learn in this hobby. We will be working on doing more "education" for new and older (not in age of course) hams over the next year. There are a lot of topics we can touch on and increase our knowledge of. Dave N2EZY, will be working on this area and will have a survey sheet to hand out soon to get a pulse on our interests. Please think about what you would like to learn more about and also, if you can

offer some of your expertise to the group, by all means let us know. It does not need to be a full blown presentation (although it can be), just a few minutes may be all it takes. And it does not have to be strictly amateur radio. Remember Tony's presentation on the sun and planets, interesting to hear about. So, get ready to get more involved with your club.

Plan ahead for the December 13 meeting, which will be our Holiday party, pot luck dinner at the AWA. I have already purchased another ARRL book to raffle off at no cost to our members.

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.