



## Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

# Smoke Signal

November 2020

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

Good day and welcome to a little snow fall (at least here in Victor). And it will be in the sixties for the end of the week. Wow! We have had our first fires in the wood stove this week. Nice.

Remember to stay 1 wavelength at 144 MHz apart and wear a mask when outside around others and when you cannot social distance. You are protecting others around you and slowing the community spread.

Our next meeting for November 11, 7:30pm, will be held inside the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua and we will have two rooms so we can stay within the requirements of the county. Masks will be required of all as well as signing the health form outside of the room. Our speaker will be Steve, WB2VMR, and he will cover some of the Go-Kits he has made. Should be interesting and give you some ideas. All are welcome.

The meeting will follow the 6:30 Laurel VE testing session.

### Past Events

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Our October program was by Dave Taylor, KB2KBY, and was on his time in the Army in Shemya, Alaska and with the NSA in the DC area. Thanks Dave for the interesting and informative talk.

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.

There was a board of directors meeting held before the October meeting and the topics discussed were: Programs (Steve handed out an extensive list of suggestions), Activities for the coming year (fox hunts, Winter Field Day, etc), Ham Radio Boot camp, Mentor group, and Ways to help new hams get and stay on the air. The minutes will be posted on the website.

## Upcoming Events

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Our **next VE Session** is scheduled for November 11 at 6:30. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED** because of the corona virus guidelines. Contact Russ N2IZV at [rcharris@msn.com](mailto:rcharris@msn.com) if you would like to be on his list of examinees. Masks and social distancing are required. He will also need VEs.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL November CW and Phone Sweepstakes, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 CW QSO party, VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest and many others. See the November QST pages 74 and 83 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!

Pat KD2PER has told me that he is planning on doing something for the Winter Field Day event. If you are interested in helping him, he would love to have you.

It was agreed upon by the board that we will NOT be having a holiday party this year. Instead we will have a regular meeting at the Safety Training Center on December 9. Masks and social distancing will be required. Contact me if you have any questions.

Our January 2021 meeting will be the annual Flea Market for the club. Start getting your things together to sell or swap!

## RACES and ARES

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The annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was held in early October and we did a drill where we activated the Hopewell and Geneva EOC stations as well as placing operators at 3 fire stations and the Eastview Mall area. Traffic was passed on VHF and UHF, voice and digital modes. It was a successful event and we all learned many things about field operating. There will be more ways to become active and experienced RACES/ARES members so watch your emails. Participating stations were N2UMH, WA2SSJ, KD2LGE, WB2VMR, W2ODD, KA2HQZ, W2SCL, KB2NCI. Check in stations were KD2PER, K2VJK and K2JBD (from Soldiers and Sailors Hospital in Penn Yan).

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, but we will be discontinuing the use of FLMSG for our nets and drills, due to the difficulty of keeping everyone on the same version. It appears that the use of different versions of FLMSG makes receiving the transmission very spotty. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at [kb2nci@arrl.net](mailto:kb2nci@arrl.net) or 585-924-0752 or Scott N2UMH at [ldfask@yahoo.com](mailto:ldfask@yahoo.com). If you are not a member and would like to become one, please see or contact me. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep it as current as possible.

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 net.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (RACES)—to be posted in the next county newsletter--

Twenty members of the Ontario and Wayne Counties RACES groups, participating in the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Pumpkin Patrol across New York State, assisted State Police Troop T on October 30 and 31 by positioning on 8 bridges that cross the Thruway in Ontario County. Their presence was to deter vandalism from 8pm to midnight during the Halloween time period. Net operations on Friday were directed by an operator at his home station in Farmington and from the Ontario County Emergency Management Office RACES station on Saturday. There were no incidents during the operation

## Odd and Ends

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A new benefit of ARRL membership:

### **Schedule of Upcoming Webinars**

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**Welcome to ARRL's Learning Network!** Members should use the registration links below to save your seat in an upcoming webinar. This schedule is subject to change and unintended cancellations. Do you have questions? Email ARRL [Lifelong Learning](#). Have an interesting topic you want to share? Submit your presentation idea through our [Call for Speakers form](#).

**Need help?** Before the webinar we encourage you to review the [system requirements](#) and [check your computer system](#) to ensure the best viewing experience. For technical assistance before or during the session please visit [GoToWebinar online support](#) or call toll-free 833-851-8340 in the U.S.

**Recordings:** Presentations are recorded for later viewing (barring any unforeseen technical difficulties). See the list of [previously recorded webinars](#)

#### ***UPCOMING SCHEDULE:***

##### **How to Get Started in Amateur Radio Contesting**

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Why do hams participate in on-air contests? How would I benefit from contesting? What do I need to get started in Contesting? What are good contests for beginners? Where can I learn more? This session will answer all of these questions and more.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 10 AM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)

[Register Now >](#)

##### **Amateur Radio's Role at the Boston Marathon Bombing**

Steve Schwarm, W3EVE

Amateur radio has played a significant role in public service communications for the Boston Marathon for several decades. That role was put to the test in 2013 when two bombs were exploded near the finish line. This presentation will describe the role that ham radio played at the Marathon and how that role changed due to the bombing.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 10 AM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)

[Register Now >](#)

##### **Learn and Have Fun with Morse Code**

Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE and Jim Crites, W6JIM

Morse code or "CW" is a popular ham radio operating mode. Learning CW does not have to be an arduous or lonely experience. Learn, practice, and enjoy CW with the methods used by the Long Island CW Club.

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 5 PM PST / 8 PM EST (0100 UTC on Friday, December 18)

[Register Now >](#)

The ARRL **Learning Network** webinar series was introduced as a new membership benefit in July. Presentations are by members, for members, as part of ARRL's Lifelong Learning initiative. Topics cover three primary interest areas among radio amateurs, including electronics and technology, personal communications and operating, and emergency communications and public service.

All webinars are recorded, so members and radio clubs can view previous presentations. **Join** ARRL to take advantage of this new member benefit.

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 September/October issue covers many topics, including Radio Technology, Installing a Mobile Radio in your vehicle, Soldering a PL259, and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership.

## **NEW REPEATERS:**

Dave W2ACC reports that the KD2NOL 146.985- (82.5) repeater is up and running in Dundee and gives very good coverage for Seneca County. This is the former frequency for the N2LSJ repeater in Penn Yan.

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. Many of our members have been getting on the air with 6 meters. Looks like fun. Thanks to Dave W2ACC and Dean 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. I recommend becoming a member of UNYREPCO as that covers our immediate area.

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. And for scanner listeners, go to [www.radioreference.com](http://www.radioreference.com) for nationwide information.

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. Dave's 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).

From Dave, W2ACC

"There is a **220 net** on Tuesday night 7:00 pm and three nets on Friday night. 7:00 pm is the Syracuse world net followed by Tech net and the a swap net. My 220 is tied into all of them along with KA2NDW and KD2SL

My 900 MHz repeater is up and running"

927.212	902.212
5	5

With an 82.5 tone

All are welcome

73

Dave

W2ACC

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!

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

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STILL GOING---Since March 17, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the 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.

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 <sup>th</sup> ) 9pm Monroe County RACES net
3993.5kHz LSB	Sundays at 9am New York State RACES net

## Club/RACES Repeaters

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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

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Our VE sessions continue to bring new people into the hobby. I believe there were around 10 examinees in September and they were from all over our area, and not just Ontario County. Thanks to Russ, N2IZV, and his team for keeping this up. A challenge for amateur radio has always been to get those new licenses on the air and keep them engaged. There are a nearly unending number of parts to the hobby and it can fill the needs of most every type of individual, but they need to feel that there is someone to answer their questions and encourage them to get and stay active. We all know that life can get in the way, but keeping them engaged increases the chances that they will continue in the hobby. That is where the club and its members come in. As was mentioned above, we will be organizing a mentor group to work with those new hams. Or work with the not so new that have let the license they worked for sit on the sidelines. Everyone of us can help with this and there is great satisfaction in doing so. Feel free to contact me or anyone on the board to volunteer your time and energy. And if you have your own questions, also contact me or a member of the board. Together we can make the amateur radio hobby stronger and more fun.

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

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

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585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

The Amateur's Code<sup>[1]</sup> Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)<sup>[2]</sup>The Radio

<sup>[3]</sup>Amateur is:

<sup>[4]</sup>CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.<sup>[5]</sup>

<sup>[6]</sup>LOYAL Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other <sup>[7]</sup>amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, <sup>[8]</sup>through which Amateur Radio in the United States is <sup>[9]</sup>represented nationally and internationally.<sup>[10]</sup>

<sup>[11]</sup>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.