



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club
Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

November 2023

www.siarc.us

We had a great trip but missed most of October. Came back to freezing temps at night. Oh well, here comes w.....!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at the Safety Training Center. All are welcome. The program is TBD.

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 just had net #906 last night. Thank you to all who have checked in over the last 3+ years. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

Our program in October was by Paul KD2DO and discussed WinLink and the like. Thanks Paul, for speaking again to the group. I am sorry to have missed the talk.

Saturday, September 30, was the first Wilmot Breakaway Ride that came down into Ontario County. I believe that KD2LGE helped out. I hope it went well and that more of us can assist in 2024.

Sunday October 1 was the Wineglass Marathon in Steuben County. W2ODD and KA2HQZ assisted with the event. I look forward to hearing how it went.

The New York QSO Party was held on October 21. Who participated? Can you provide information for me to report to the club??

Pumpkin Patrol was held on October 30 and 31 with 20 members of the Ontario and Wayne County's RACES/ARES groups participating to watch over the Thruway bridges to help prevent mischief. There were not any incidents reported. Hams involved were: WB2VMR, KD2LBM, W1YX, KD2TWM, KC2TNJ, KD2LGE, KC2TCM, WD2STK, KB2FSB, KA1CNF, N2BH, KD2PER, KD2DNO, W2WES, N2JOR, N2MKT, KA2HQZ, KD2FCX, KD2AVK, KB2NCI. The group was organized by KB2KBY who makes the contact with NYS Police Troop T, who coordinates the groups from state line to state line.

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!

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?

Upcoming Events

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

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session is Canceled** for November 8, 2023. The next testing session will be on January 10, 2024. Thank you to Sabrina and her team of dedicated volunteer examiners. You provide a great service to the ham radio community. See you in 2024.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL Sweepstakes CW and SSB, 10-10 International 10 meter Digital Contest, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, ARRL EME Contest, and many others. See the November QST pages 82 and 94 and the WA7BNM website 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!

The **next Ham Radio Breakfast** is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 8am at the Villager Restaurant on South Main St, Canandaigua. All are welcome to attend.

The ARRL is sponsoring a yearlong event, **Volunteers on the Air**. It recognizes the many volunteers around the country that keep the ARRL and amateur radio growing and healthy. Check out the article in the On the Air January/February issue or www.arrl.org for details.

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

I was informed that the course for the **2024 Tour De Cure** has been changed and will come down into Ontario County, around Canandaigua Lake and be based out of Finger Lakes Community College. I am hopeful we can increase our participation as a club for the June 8th event.

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

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

We are planning a **Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** for Saturday, November 4, 2023. The SET will run in the morning and will test communications from the two EOC stations, the hospital stations and as many fire department areas as possible. There will be a preparation meeting on **Thursday, November 2, at 6:30PM** at the Safety Training Center for those interested in participating or just to find out more about the event. Further information will be sent out by Steve WB2VMR, RACES Radio Officer.

There is a **Skywarn Winter Training** session (on line) for Tuesday, November 28, 2023 from 11am to 12:30pm. More information and to sign up can be found at [Skywarn \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov/skywarn)

Membership continues to be a topic of discussion in our meetings. We have several members that for one reason or another, are inactive with the group. Just because we are lucky enough to live in an area that does not get many “disasters”, it does not mean that we will be needed at all. Remember the train derailments from this summer and storms that went up the East and Southeast coastlines. Weather is changing and we are due for some kind of event. Practice really helps to make an activation smoother and more accurate. It would be good for all of us to get more involved with ARES/RACES so we can be prepared to help our communities. I hope you can join us or get more active.

RACES repeaters—The Yaesu repeater has been installed at Gannett Hill on 145.450 and it sounds and works great. The new repeater does not have a courtesy tone so wait for the tail to drop before transmitting. The Bridgecom repeater at Gannett Hill will be reprogrammed to be placed in service at the Geneva City Hall EOC site.

ARES membership—Steve has received forms from 17 so far and is encouraging all interested hams to join. ARES does not have the same strict membership rules that RACES does so is a little easier to join and help your community.

ICS Training—It is our goal to have all our members complete the following ICS courses: 100, 200, 700 and 800. All are available on line and increase your understanding of our place and how to work within the framework of Emergency Management.

AuxComm training---there will be an AuxComm training offered by the NYS Department of Homeland Security on November 14 to 16 in Oriskany, NY. There are 30 spots available and we have 4 from our group going, but there should be room for others. Contact Steve WB2VMR if interested.

If you were not aware, there will be a **Complete Solar Eclipse** next year on April 8 and our region is in the direct path for Totality. It is felt that there will be a large influx of people to the Finger Lakes, wanting to get a good look (be sure to wear the correct sunglasses for this!!). Much of the local infrastructure will be stressed by the numbers here so we must be prepared. Ongoing talks with all parts of emergency services are happening. Stay tuned for more information. Maybe Tony KD2HNI will be kind enough to do a program for us on the eclipse?

The next **RACES meeting** will be held on Thursday, November 30, at 9am in the Safety Training Center. A part of the meeting will discuss the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which we will hold in November. All RACES members are encouraged and welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining ARES/RACES, please attend or contact us as well.

From the County Administrator's Newsletter (thanks WA2SSJ for submitting):
Emergency Management

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) On Sunday, September 10, 12 members of the Ontario County RACES and Wayne County RACES assisted with course safety communications for the Finger Lakes Triathlon in Canandaigua, Hopewell, and Gorham. Some of the assets used were two RACES amateur radio repeaters that are supported by the Emergency Management Office. Net control operations were conducted out of the RACES radio room at the Safety Training Center. There were no injuries and only minor bicycle repairs needed.

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@arrl.net 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 it as current as possible.

-----NEW-----

Starting March 26, we will be holding a practice session in Sending FLDIGI on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm before the 8pm Net. These sessions will also be on the W2ONT 145.450- (110.9) repeater. These are to give you practice at sending a message digitally.

As those that participated can tell you, Murphy likes to visit your station during this time. Please try to join us. The NCS for the evening will start these up at 7:30pm.

The New York State RACES net is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 3993.5khz LSB and members are always welcome and to get some more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 3583.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try!

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.

The FCC is considering a **change to the amateur allocation in the 60m band**. Currently we have 5 channels with max power of 100 watts ERP and it is proposed to change to 15khz of continuous bandwidth with 9 (yes, nine) watts ERP. Comments can be made to the FCC until November 28, 2023. Please let your thoughts be known. Complete information can be found at [ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band](#).

Member Profile and Picture

No volunteers for October. Anyone for December and beyond?

Odd and Ends

John KD2GTA has a few items for sale. They are:

a zastone dualband radio asking \$150.00

uninten scanner digital asking \$200.00

dnr bofeng ht \$50.00

power supply \$50.00

He can be contacted at zoger77@gmail.com

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 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 \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org)

The Maritime Mobile Services Net (mmsn.org) operates daily on 14.300mhz from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times.

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 September/October issue covers many topics, including articles on Universal Coordinated Time, the Solar Eclipse QSO Party, Foxhunting Basics and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership. Your membership 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](http://arrl.org). 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 and click on Useful Links 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.

If you travel, look at 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 for nationwide information.

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 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. 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 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

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. 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 #906 and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK	Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net
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	Sundays at 9am New York State RACES net

Club/RACES Repeaters

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—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 you are well aware of, November is the month of the great holiday of Thanksgiving. It is a time of getting together with friends and family and maybe eating a little too much tasty food. It can also be a time of reflection on what you have and are thankful for. I am very thankful for the good health that I and my family have and for all of the good friends in my life, both here in the Finger Lakes and around the country. I hope you can take some time to reflect on your circumstances and appreciate what you have. Life can be very good.

Take care of yourself and each other and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

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@arrl.net

585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

The Amateur's Code^[1] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[2] The Radio^[3]
Amateur is:

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

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

^[11]PROGRESSIVE With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

^[12]FRIENDLY With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly^[13] advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These^[14] are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

^[15]BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to^[16] family, job, school or community.^[17]

^[18]PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and^[19] community.

