Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club
Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

November 2026 www.siarc.us

The 82 repeater is back!!

Welcome to November and a beautiful run of dry and comfortable weather. Lots of sun too!! We will see what the rest of the month brings.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 11, 2026,** and begins at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 County Road 48, Hopewell. The program will be by Norm WB2GGM and Tom KB2NCI and talk about the Space Shuttle School Program we did several years ago. The meeting will follow the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

The K2BWK 146.820 repeater is back on the air, as of last Sunday, and the club continues to hold the **Health and Welfare net** at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (except club meeting nights) so there is ample opportunity to catch up with your friends. We hit net #1625 this week, so thank you to all who have checked in since March 2020. I hope you all can join us.

Past Events

Pumpkin Patrol



The event for 2026 is over and once again, was uneventful and calm.
A total of 20 operators from SIARC and Drumlins Amateur Radio Club, covered bridges in Ontario County over the Thruway October 30 and 31 from 8pm to midnight, to deter unsafe activity in those areas. The efforts are very much appreciated by Troop T and local law enforcement. Thanks to Dave KB2KBY for organizing the teams. The volunteers were: WB2VMR, KD2SER, KC2TNJ, KA1CNF, W2SCL, W2WES, KB2FSB, KD2FCX, KD2AVK, KD2PER, NA2DM (two nights), W1YX, KC8QXT, N2IZV, N2BH, KD2VNV, KA2HQZ, WD2STK, KC2TCM, KB2NCI. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

A crew was at the Mobiltech site in Canandaigua on November 1st, and completed the installation of the K2BWK repeater and antenna and got it back on the air. It seems to be working fine, so dial it up and give it a try. We expect the coverage to be similar to the

previous site on the VA tower. It is set up for Encode/Decode of 110.9, so if you want less interference from other repeaters on that frequency, you can add that to the memory channel. You need at least to have 110.9 in an Encode setting to connect to the repeater. Thank you to Jason W2FLX and Steve WB2VMR for all of their work and expertise getting the repeater on the air. We are also very appreciative of the support that amateur radio receives from Mobiltech Communications. We are happy to have K2BWK back on the air!!

A Winter Skywarn class was held on October 21, at the Safety Training Center and was well attended by members of the local ham radio community, public safety and even a local TV meteorologist. Thank you to Shane Kearns from the NWS office in Buffalo for presenting.

The New York QSO Party was held recently and I was only able to work it for a few hours. But I had fun making the 30 contacts on 40 meters and in the other 2 state QSO parties. My second contact was with our own Rich WB2JLR and he made a ton more than I did. Congratulations Rich! Any other reports?

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 next **SIARC and friends Breakfast** will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at 8am at Jack's Kitchen, 19 West Main St, Shortsville. All are welcome.

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on November 11, 2026. The session will begin at 6:30pm and be the last for 2026. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team of dedicated volunteer examiners. You provide a great service to the ham radio community. She will need VEs to help administer the exams, so please contact her if you can help. See the SIARC website, Exam page, for details. Testing for 2027 will be on meeting nights in January, March, July, September and November. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team.

Our **December Holiday meeting** will once again, be held at the Antique Wireless Association, on Wednesday, December 9, 2026. We will meet at 6pm and it will be a dish to pass event. The club will provide pizza and soft drinks. More details forthcoming.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL November Sweepstakes CW and SSB, ARRL EME Contest, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest NA, CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW, AWA Bruce Kelley1929 QSO Party, and many others. See the November QST, pages 85 and 98 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!!

Thank you to all who participated in Public Service events that we supported in 2026. They are great practice working with other hams and helping our communities. There is always room for more volunteers. I look forward to working with you in 2027!

FIELD DAY 2027---Rich KC2TNJ was able to reserve the site at Gannett Hill Park for June 26 and 27, 2027 for our joint Field Day operation. More info to follow, but I wanted everyone to know that is where we will be operating and having fun from next year. Thanks, Rich!!

The ARRL is supporting a couple of programs to highlight amateur radio clubs. We will be attempting to participate in these programs throughout 2026, to showcase the fun and helpful things we do in our area. One program is **Year of the Club (YOTC)**. See Year of the Club for more information. The other is the celebration of the Semiquincentennial with the **America 250 WAS** award. See America250 WAS for details. I will be looking for members to organize our effort so please contact me (kb2nci@gmail.com) to help.

Winter Field Day is January 23 and 24, 2027 and my wife and I am offering to host an event at our house on Saturday. We have done this in the past, and it always a good time and we get to practice setting up in colder weather. Keep that date open if you would like to attend. More information will follow in December and January.

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.

If you are interested in joining the local RACES or ARES group, please contact Steve WB2VMR. All hams are encouraged to participate.

The **next RACES meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 9am in the Safety Training Center. Steve announced that beginning in 2026, we will be holding the admin meetings on Thursdays, alternating with a 9am and 7pm start time to get as many members as possible a chance to attend. All RACES members are encouraged to attend.

We will be participating in the annual ARRL ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) by the end of the year. Planning will begin shortly and if you are interested in helping with that, please contact Steve WB2VMR at sbenton2@rochester.rr.com . We will be looking for all RACES member to participate in the SET.

The installation of the new carpeting and furniture in the EMO has been completed and RACES is in the process of installing our radio and computer equipment, this should be completed by 11-6-26. RACES members should watch for emails from Steve on times and dates for the work to be completed.

Ontario County Safety Training Center will be hosting: **Registration is Closed for this.**

*We are scheduling a DHSES **AUXCOMM training class at the Ontario County Safety Training Center the weekend of November 7th and 8th***
*from 8AM until 5PM. This is part of the NYS Office of Interoperability and Emergency Communications (OIEC) and will allow you to become certified as a trained Emergency Communicator for the State. This is excellent training for Amateur Radio Operators to work in a state emergency situation as an Emergency Communicator. There is no cost for this training which will be conducted by State certified instructors. I do not have all the details yet, but I wanted to let you know when we are having the course and which weekend so you can plan ahead. In the meantime, you can go to the State Learning Management System at **http://lmsportal-dhses.ny.gov** and get a student ID number. The question about which will be your main training group location is **OIEC**. This will allow you to sign up for the training as soon as it is posted. The course limit is around 30 students, and it is open to all of NYS so you will need to sign up as soon as it is released. Most likely most students will be coming from surrounding counties. I will keep you informed as things progress. Let me know if you have any questions.*
73 Steve Benton WB2VMR

Ontario County RACES Radio Officer and County ARES Emergency Coordinator, Steve WB2VMR, has received AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications) credentials from the OIEC. AUXCOMM is the amateur radio interface to the NYS DHSES Communication Unit. Hopefully, we will have more certified communications personnel from Ontario County RACES over the next year.

RACES and ARES are always looking for more participation and the recent events in western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene, show that disasters can occur in unexpected locations. Training to Serve, Serving to Support!

I encourage all of you to check into our **weekly RACES/ARES nets**, which are on Sundays at 8pm (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 Steve at sbenton2@rochester.rr.com. 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 the roster as current as possible.

The **New York State RACES net** is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 3993.5 khz or 7281 khz LSB and interested hams (General class or higher) are always welcome to check in and get more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly RACES nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 7081.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. Forty meters has worked very well, so for the time being, the net will remain there. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try! NYS RACES is also doing testing on 60 meters. It is a great band for these regional communications, so all members should have that capability. For more information on RACES, go to Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) | Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

From Part 97.1 of the FCC Rules regarding the Basis and Purpose of amateur radio:

Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

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, www.arrl.org/subscribe It is a very informative publication.

The following is a list of digital HF nets you can listen and check into. Thanks to Paul KD2DO for this information.
Here are the digital nets in our area that you can listen into and now join.
*** MID-ATLANTIC Net: @ 1000L Sunday morning on 7.068 MHz USB.-SUSPENDED until FALL**********due to 40 meter conditions**********
*** NJ NBEMS Net: @ 0900L Sunday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.
*** NH NBEMS Net: @ 0700L Saturday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.
*** NY NBEMS Net: @ 0800L Saturday morning on 3.583 MHz USB.
*** US East NBEMS: @ 1900L Wednesday evening on 3.536 MHz USB.
*** MIDTN Net: Tues, Thurs & Sat 1930L on 3.582.5 MHz USB.
and for a change of pace
Feld Hell 30m net, Wed 2000 ET on 10.1410, FSKH105
Feld Hell 40m net, Thu 2100 ET on 7.0890, FSKH105
Feld Hell 80m net, Fri 2200 ET on 3.5835, FSKH105
Be sure your TxID and RxID buttons are activated and green on FLDIGI, to follow the mode used.
There are others when you have tried these.

Odd and Ends

Please welcome our newest members, John KC8QXT and Angelique KC8QXQ, Francis, to SIARC. John has also joined the RACES group. We look forward to speaking and working with them.
Also joining in October, were Matt N2MQ, David KE2JEP and Sam KE2JEO, Quimby.
Welcome to SIARC.

Steve KD2OM is working on a new website look for the club. The URL is the same as before, www.siarc.us . Feel free to navigate around it to become familiar. Thanks Steve, for your work on this.

Tom W2TF found this article on **NVIS antennas**. It is full of great information.
https://vu3dxr.in/near-vertical-incidence-skywave-nvis-the-definitive-guide-to-reliable-regional-hf-radio/

See the SIARC website for updated information on our D-Star repeaters and how to use them. Thanks to Steve KD2OM and Larry N2MLH for keeping these machines on the air.

ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. I forwarded to the group, an email from the ARRL about sending a letter to your elected federal officials to get these bills. H.R. 1094 and S. 459, passed. Here is the link for more information about this important legislation to protect our amateur radio spectrum. The link also provides an easy way to send the requested letters so the league can give them to the officials. You do not need to be an ARRL member to participate in this, so if you have not already sent your letter, please do so today!! Thank you. Current Legislation Go to Send-A-Letter.org/HOA to complete the process.

A **new emergency and weather alert system** is now available for New Yorkers. Through the free 333111 system, you'll receive text alerts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services about severe weather, significant power outages and shelter locations in your area. To receive these alerts, text 333111 and the county you wish to receive the alerts for (do not add the word "county" or any spaces or punctuation). You can add more than one county. If you are already signed up for NY-ALERT, you are all set. They will be the same messages. If you no longer wish to receive these messages, text STOP to 333111.

Be sure to check your license expiration periodically. You can renew through the FCC starting 90 days before expiration. See this link for instructions. SOMMA.indd
AND, it is important to keep your FCC registration postal and email address up to date. This will ensure that you receive correspondence from them promptly.

Remember that club dues need to be renewed in September. If you are not a Life member (only $100), be sure to see Stan to keep current.

If you have items you would like to sell, let me know and I can post it in the Smoke Signal.

Doug KD2LGE has been working with a business, Apparel Printers Plus, 67 East Main St in Victor, to provide club apparel. They do a nice and quick job. Thanks, Doug, for setting this up.

There are lots of new hams in the area due to the great success of the local VE testing program. If you hear a new license (many are KE2xxx) be sure to call them and welcome them to the hobby.

Don't forget to add 146.520 simplex to your scan routine. It is a good frequency to find and help hams traveling through our area and simplex activity seems to be increasing.

From the County Administrator's Newsletter and the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles:

DMV The Federal REAL ID deadline is now May 7, 2025. Though not mandatory, we encourage everyone to obtain a REAL ID compliant identification today! For more information please visit https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/federal-real-id

A STAR in the upper right corner of your license indicates a REAL ID.

ARLB007 FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented.
Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The Public Notice can be found in PDF format at, https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-219A1.pdf .

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).
NNNN

/EX From the ARRL Letter 3-22-2024.

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 2023 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)

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has designated **14.300Mhz** as a worldwide center of activity frequency for emergency traffic. There are two nets that run from 7am to 10pm eastern time daily. The **Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net**, aka Intercon, (www.intercontinentalnet.org) operates from 7am to noon and the **Maritime Mobile Services Net** (www.mmsn.org) operates daily from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times. Listen in for some interesting conversations.

During Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30), you can find some interesting traffic from the **Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org)** on 14.325Mhz days and 7.268Mhz nights, when a hurricane is within 300 miles of land. Hurricane Melissa saw several hours of the net being active and assisting the affected areas.

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 and Jay KC2TCM
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 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 "Signal within the Signal,

Operating CTCSS and DCS, Buying your First Radio, Getting Started in Public Service" and many others. It is available on the website with your ARRL membership. Your membership also 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. Give a look-see!!

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. Another ham site with useful information for New York state is Upstate Ham Upstate NY HAM Radio News & Information (upstateham.com) with many repeater lists. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information on repeaters and public safety.

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 and 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 ($20) 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 work hard to represent all of amateur radio. www.arrl.org/join

What projects are you working on or involved in? We would love to hear about them, either at the meeting or see them 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 (except meeting nights). 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 will completed #1625 this week 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
146.745- (71.9) WA2AAZ	Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES net
146.610- (110.9) W2ARM	Thursdays 7pm Monroe County ARES/RACES net
7281 or 3993.5 khz 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
W2ONT	147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall

President's Thoughts

This fall saw the movement of our K2BWK 146.820 repeater from its longtime home on top of the VA tower in downtown Canandaigua. The move was necessitated by the reconstruction project on the VA grounds. The repeater was installed there in the early 1980s and had served the amateur community well during that time. It was a task to work on it, as we needed permission or an escort to reach the top of the building. The trip entailed an elevator ride to the uppermost floor and then walking up 3 flights of stairs to reach the antenna location. The first trip I made up to it, we got "permission" from the front desk by saying we were "contractors" and needed access. They then unlocked the gate for us to ascend the 3 flights of stairs. The next trip, we got permission from the VA Fire Department staff and they let us thru the gate. My final time up there, the Fire Department staff escorted us to the top and stayed around to be sure we were fine. They had also assisted with bringing a new antenna up through the middle of the staircase, using ropes. Good practice for them and it sure made it easier for us older guys. It was greatly appreciated. I was not there for the decommissioning of the repeater, but pictures showed a FD person observing the activity. We were very fortunate to have this site for all of those years.

Now the repeater, is at a site on Firehall Rd in Canandaigua, just north of the city. It appears to be working nearly as well as the last location and we really appreciate all of the support that Mobiltech Communications have provided with this and other repeater projects.

See the antenna installation below. It is there to be used, so give it a try.



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

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI
kb2nci@gmail.com
585-430-9850
Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill
Training to Serve, Serving to Support

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.