



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

November 2022

www.siarc.us

Thankfully, we are approaching the end of the hurricane season (end of November officially). There were a few major storms that battered the Caribbean and Florida this year. Our thoughts go out to all the affected peoples. Amateur radio was there to provide emergency communications.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9 at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. The meeting will follow the Laurel VE test session at 6:30pm. The program that night will be by Steve, WB2VMR, and cover Kit Building. Should be very interesting.

Please be aware that because of the Russian Invasion, ALL amateur radio activity in Ukraine (UR-UZ, EM-EO) has been suspended. So sad that this war continues.

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 are approaching net #665 this week. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The program in October was by Paul, KD2DO, and covered Winlink and its use in amateur radio. We are working on having the power point downloaded to the website. Thanks Paul, for a very interesting program.

The New York QSO Party was in October. Any operating stories from that event?

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! Pat, how was your trip and activations in Montana?

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?

Pumpkin Patrol was held on October 30 and 31. A total of 20 operators participated over the two nights and it was a very boring time period. And that is GOOD! Our goal is to deter those that might like to drop items from the Thruway bridges. We were part of a statewide effort, supporting Troop T of the New York State Police. Members of SIARC, Drumlins and RARA assisted in our effort. Thanks to those that were part of it in 2022: WB2VMR, W1YX (2 nights), KD2LBM (2), KC2TNJ, KA1CNF, KD2LGE, KC2TCM (2), WD2STK (2), KB2FSB, N2JOR, KA2HQZ, W2SCL (2), KD2TWM, W2WES, KD2YEI, N2MKT, KD2FCX, KD2AVK, KD2PER, KB2NCI. Thanks to Dave KB2KBY for organizing the group again. See you in 2023.

The CQ Worldwide SSB contest was this past weekend. I had a little time to put in and was able to make several contacts (even with my 90 watts and a dipole!). Notable prefixes for me were: F, DR, OK, M, DH, VE5, VE6, and KP4. I heard but was able to get noticed by the following: HK, P4, HG, KP2, LO7, PJ4, CB8, JJ. Maybe more contacts next time, but it was fun. Did anyone else participate? These were all on 10 and 15 meters.

Upcoming Events

The **next VE Session** (and last for 2022) is scheduled for November 9, 2022 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED**. Contact Sabrina, WD2STK, at testing@siarc.us if you would like to be on the list of examinees. She will also need VEs. See www.siarc.us under Radio Amateur Exams for complete information. Thanks to Sabrina and her team for keeping this worthwhile project up and running.

The last exam session for 2022 will be November 9. Thanks to Russ and Sabrina and the team for all of the sessions and new and upgraded licenses in 2022. It is great service. See you in 2023.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL Sweepstakes Contest CW and SSB, ARRL EME Contest, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 CW QSO Party, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, and many others. See the November QST pages 77 and 90 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 **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

RACES and ARES

The next scheduled Admin Meeting will be on Thursday, November 17 at 9am at the Safety Training Center. All RACES members are welcome to attend.

We are scheduling an exercise to be held at the Safety Training Center on Saturday, November 19 at 9am for all interested RACES members. Details will follow.

Due to changes in life, Scott N2UMH has stepped down as RACES Radio Officer and ARES Emergency Coordinator for Ontario County. We wish him the best for the future and thank him for many years of service. In the interim, John WA2SSJ, Steve WB2VMR and Tom KB2NCI, will be covering those roles until Jeff Harloff, Emergency Management Director, selects a replacement.

A new Bridgecom Analog/Fusion repeater has been purchased for the 145.450 repeater and Steve WB2VMR is getting it prepared for installation, probably over the winter. It will be freestanding so will only work locally. We appreciate the continued support by the Ontario County Emergency Management Office.

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 or 585-924-0752. 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.

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 net.

Odd and Ends

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of two amateurs from our community. Ron Roach, W2FUI, of Stanley and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, of Honeoye, became silent keys in the recent weeks. Ron was a fixture at the AWA and could give the best tours and information. I am not sure, but I believe that Len was a faithful volunteer at the AWA as well. They will both be missed in the Rochester area. Rest in Peace fellows.

The Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org) operates on 14.325mhz and 7.268mhz when hurricanes are within 300 statute miles from a land mass.

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.

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. The calculator was produced by the Lake Washington Ham Club in Redmond, Washington. Check it out and be prepared for the rule change requiring amateurs to evaluate their stations for RF Exposure. Below is the link to the FAQ from the ARRL.

[RF Exposure Calculator FAQ.pdf](#)

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 July/August issue covers many topics, including articles on the 222mhz band, FT8, public service events 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

Remember to change your clocks on the weekend of November 5 and 6. We get back the hour lost in the spring.

NEW REPEATERS:

Dave W2ACC reports that 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 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. I recommend becoming a member of UNYREPCO as that covers our immediate area.

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.

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 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 during the virus situation. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net #665 and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

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

Hard to believe that it is November 2. It feels like September!! Oh well, we take what we are given. We are fortunate to live where we do (even though some grumble about some of the costs we endure) and don't generally have severe weather to contend with. Even if we do, it is usually manageable. Cold, but manageable.

We are finishing up with the VE testing season for 2022 (each of the odd months) and I wanted to say thank you to the team for all they do to help to grow the hobby and number of licensees. It is not a tough job, especially now that Russ N2IZV has perfected the process and submits the forms the same night as completed, but its accuracy and consistency is very important. This allows the examinee to get their license or upgrade before they wake up the next day. Glad the FCC was able to move into the current century (I am still trying to match that!). It is a commitment to be there each time and be prepared and he (and for the time being, Sabrina WD2STK) have done an admirable job of it. The VE team has several of our members part of it and they too deserve a thank you for being there to grade the exams. As you have heard, there is not an "I" in team. We are one of the few clubs that offer the exams throughout the year and it is appreciated. Examinees come from all of the surrounding counties. Thanks again to Russ, Sabrina and their team. Please acknowledge their work when you see them again.

Don't forget to change your clocks this coming weekend.

Take care of yourself and each other.

Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio, Be Safe 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^[L]_[SEP] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[L]_[SEP] The Radio^[L]_[SEP] Amateur is:
^[L]_[SEP] CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of
others.^[L]_[SEP]

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.