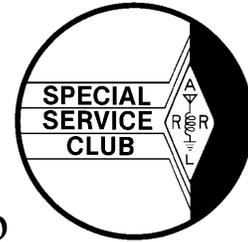




Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club



Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

December 2017

www.siarc.us

While we still wait for winter to really arrive, I am confident that it will and we will be satisfied with the results. Some many will be satisfied, that they may have the best antenna installations ever. Cannot wait to hear about those!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Antique Wireless Museum, 6925 Routes 5&20 in Bloomfield. This will be our annual Christmas party, the club will provide pizza and soft drinks and you are all asked to bring a dish to pass, along with your table service. All are welcome and check your emails before leaving if the weather tanks. I will send out something if we cancel. See you there.

Past Events

The last meeting was an informal viewing of some of the members Go-Kits. I always like to see what others are doing and how they can prepare for the unexpected.

The activities for November primarily were centered around two of our repeaters. The 146.820 club repeater at the VA now has a formal understanding allowing us to remain on the tower for at least the next 5 years. I have been pushing for this arrangement to be in writing for awhile now so we can feel safe having the repeater up there and to also allow us to do maintenance on it without having it be a clandestine operation. The repeater has been up there for many, many years and the last time we were there, the SWR was quite high and it appears the antenna needed some work. Last week, KD2OM, WB2VMR, WA2SSJ and myself spent a morning replacing an upper section of the coax and connector and the SWR is now down to 1.6 or lower. At least the repeater will not sustain damage. In 2018, we plan on replacing the antenna and harness with a new version and then hopefully we will be set for many more years.

The other repeater work is ongoing to the 145.450 RACES repeater on Gannett Hill. During a wind storm in October, something happened to take it off the air and WB2VMR has been working on a solution. It has still evaded him. WB2VMR, W2ACC and myself went up yesterday and tried to swap out equipment, but it still is not working. Hopefully soon. As a reminder, the 146.820 and 442.200 repeaters are still operational and doing well.

Upcoming Events

Our **next VE Session** will be held at 6:30pm, on January 10, 2018, 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: AWA Bruce Kelly 1929 QSO Party (CW), ARRL 10 meter contest (CW and Phone), ARRL Rookie Roundup (CW), and many others. See the December QST pages 73 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. (Begins at 7pm local time Friday) The Buffalo NWS office had a mishap with their tower (it came down during a construction event) and they are not participating this year. I am hopeful to get on HF Saturday morning for a time, so if you are HF capable, try your hand at contacting offices around the country. See www.hamradio.noaa.gov for more details on the event.

Remember our annual club flea market at the January meeting.

RACES and ARES

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.

We only have 3 more RACES nets for the year, so try to check in and practice net procedures. Thank you to WB2VMR, KA2HQZ, KD2GTA, WA2SSJ and KD2EHU for their assistance as net controls this year.

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

December 11 will start off a year long operating event commemorating NASA, similar to the National Parks on the Air event in 2016. See nasaontheair.wordpress.com and QST page 91 for details. Could be a fun event to participate in.

At the last Laurel VE testing session the following licenses were awarded:

Darren KD2OPG-Technician

Christopher KD2OPF-Technician

Jeff KD2OPE-Technician

Ken KD2OPD-Technician

Dustin KD2OMX-General

Calvin KD2OPC, now K2CAL-Technician

Wesley N2WES-General.

Congratulations to all.

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. The website is now on another provider and at a cost savings over the old one. Thanks to Steve, Jay and Scott for coming up with an alternative

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—Temporarily Off the Air
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

Many thanks to Dave N2EZY for working on the mentor list and surveying the club membership for their interests. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months to enhance your amateur radio and SIARC experience. We can all work together to succeed at this project and Dave and I will be looking to all of you for help. There will be many events through the year that will attempt to fill those interests and your knowledge will be crucial to their success.

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.

I wish you all a happy and safe Holiday Season.

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.

