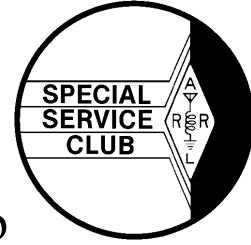




Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club
Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

April 2013

www.siarc.us

Is it April or February? I cannot tell as it feels like winter is still trying to hang around. BRRRR. At least the prediction for later this week is looking better. I can finally take the snow fence down.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30pm. I would like to have a Board of Directors meeting at 6:45 so I ask the board to be there then. Of course, all members are welcome to that meeting also.

Our program for this month and maybe into May, will be a construction project. Jay KC2TCM and Dale KB2TNL will be leading the building of a VHF tape measure directional antenna. The club will provide parts for about 10 of them, so if you want to bring your tools for this simple project, feel free. I am hopeful that we can use these for some fun outside fox hunts this summer and get some practice that could come in handy for our served agencies.

Past Events

March was a quiet month for the group. Did anyone do any contesting or catch some exciting or rare DX? I have been busy with my daughter's musical activities, so not much time for hamming. The D-Dstar repeaters are still working well and I have seen some newer callsigns on the dashboard (the SIARC website has a tab to access that easily). Way to go Dave KC2DQS and Steve WB2VMR!!

Upcoming Events

Contests and Special Events this month include: QSO parties in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ontario and South Dakota, several QRP contests, Flying Pigs Run for the Bacon, Rookie Roundup (phone) a JA CW contest and many others. See the April QST page 84 or the WA7BNM website <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more information.

The Drumlins Hamfest is slated for **April 13**. According to my information, the location has changed this year to the Palmyra VFW building. See www.drumlinsarc.org for details. This event is a great start to the hamfest season. I hope to see you all there and supporting our local clubs.

April 27 is the date of the next Wild Water Derby in Shortsville. We will be needed on Saturday afternoon only, so we will be setting up in the morning. We will need some more volunteers, so if you have not contacted me, please do so we can do a good job for the village of Shortsville!!

A reminder that dues are payable in September for the next club year. \$10 per year, \$14 for family or \$100 for Life membership. See Stan to pay your dues. One of the items for discussion at the board meeting, will be the delinquent dues.

It is time to start thinking about Field Day (June 22 and 23). Don, N2VDE, has offered to lead this fun event again, but he will need some help and operators to make it happen. We will discuss location at the meeting.

I am thinking that some Saturday in August will be a good time for us to hold our annual picnic and also conduct our SPECIAL EVENT STATION to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary. I sent out a survey for either August 17 or 31 and got a few responses. We will decide on April 10. We could set up a couple of stations and operate during throughout the day. My wife is ok with us having this event at our home. (the dogs will love the company) Please bring your thoughts to the next meeting.

The next breakfast will be on April 20 at 8am at the Villager Restaurant, 245 S. Main St Canandaigua. Please let me know by the 12th if you will be there so I can alert the restaurant.

Odds and End

A reminder to renew your ARRL membership thru the club. We get a commission on each new and renewal if the club sends it in. See Ray AB2UY or Tom KB2NCI for details.

The next VE testing will be on May 8 at 6:30pm, location to be determined. There is a big event at the Safety Training Center on our usual meeting night, so we are looking for an alternative site. See the SIARC website for details. You can also contact Dave AB2WZ at d1161f@aol.com for information on becoming a VE.

The Drumlins ARC will be holding exams on the even months. Contact Sabrina WD2STK at wd2stk@yahoo.com for details.

See the Radio Reference website at www.radioreference.com/apps/db/ for interesting information on all sorts of radio related items. There are areas for public service, ham radio and live feeds for all over the country. It is fun to watch the changes in public service frequencies as all agencies ramp up for the new requirements to conserve bandwidth, and it helps you listen to our fine emergency services personnel. I have programmed my digital scanner with the new frequencies, but have heard very little activity. Does anyone have any other information?

Nets

145.450 (110.9) W2ONT Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES training net
146.685 (no tone) WA2EMO Sundays 8:45pm Wayne County RACES net
146.610 (110.9) N2MPE Thursdays (except 4th) 9pm Monroe County ARES net
3993.5 kHz LSB State RACES net Sundays 9am

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
W2ONT 442.200+ (110.9) Gannett Hill
W2ONT 147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall

President's Thoughts

As we wait to usher in the warmer weather, I am thinking about ways to promote our hobby to the uninformed masses. One of the ways I came up with is something we do naturally, talk to others! This past weekend, our family was out to dinner (at the famous Villager Restaurant in Canandaigua) and I mentioned that I needed to send out the Smoke Signal soon. My 18 year old son burst out laughing, thinking I was going to actually send out smoke signals. He knows I struggle with newer cell phones (I still use a low tech Trac Phone) so it would not surprise him for me to use the old method. I guess I need to let him in a little more about what I do in the basement. We all had a good laugh and I began to think that the public does not really know what we do or can do especially in times of communications need. This topic is a regular discussion on the ARRL PR reflector and many ideas have been presented for the "elevator speech" and what information do you want to convey in a short time; before their eyes glaze over. I have mentioned in the past the "Service, Science and Skill" phrase. Others have come up with a basic monologue about amateur radio, telling how it is different than CB, gives us more flexibility and usefulness. I have begun to carry some ARRL general topic brochures to hand out if questions arise. Anyway, having something already thought out could help you in time if need. Just some food for thought. Have a great month. And remember, Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio.

73, Tom KB2NCI

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