



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club



Smoke Signal

December 2011

The next meeting is our annual Christmas Party to be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at the AWA Media Center at 6925 Routes 5 and 20 in Bloomfield, just across and south of the intersection with Route 444. We will have a talk in on 145.45 repeater. The club will provide pizza and I will bring the soft drinks. Please bring a "dish" to pass. In addition, bring any "toys" you would like to show off. It is always fun, so we look forward to seeing you there. The festivities kick off at 7pm.

Past Events

Steve WB2VMR, Dale KB2TNL, Lee WA2LEE and Tom KB2NCI met at the EOC on Sunday November 20 to go through the equipment that was recently donated to the club. Steve and Dale took a few pieces home to check their worthiness. Steve said the TS120 and MFJ antenna analyzer work fine. In January we will have an auction for some equipment and maybe donate some to the AWA (if they want them). Then we spent a little time learning a bit more about the EOC TS2000 and its interface with the computer. Little steps.

Did anyone participate in the CW and/or Phone Sweepstakes in November? If so, please give us a report of your results and fun you had.

Upcoming Events

Skywarn Recognition Day is Saturday, December 3 and we are planning on a road trip to the Buffalo National Weather Service office. Steve WB2VMR, Gib KC2JTU and Tom KB2NCI are slated to attend, but there is room for more if interested. We are meeting at

Steve's house at 6129 County Road 41 in Farmington at 8am and carpooling, with a return time around 3:30pm. Let me know if you want to attend so I can let the NWS know.

ARRL Kid's Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 8, 2012 and I think we could set up in a meeting room at the EOC with some HF stations. Those attending could invite their kids and/or grandchildren so we would have enough operators for the kids there. Let's talk about it at the meeting!!

We will be planning on our next breakfast get together for January so watch your emails for the time and location.

Odds and Ends

Check with Stan WM3D if you are not sure of your membership status. The club year runs from September 1 through August 31 and dues are payable in September. They are still \$10.00. Life membership is \$100.00.

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.

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 (new repeater)
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 443.5 (+) Hemlock
W2ONT 145.450- (110.9) Gannett Hill
W2ONT 442.200- (110.9) Gannett Hill
W2ONT 147.090- (110.9) Geneva City Hall

Officer Biography

Dave Furber AC2HK-----I first became interested in radio while in high school

in northern Indiana. It started with a visit to one of my parents friends

who happened to be an amateur (K8LZL - SK). The idea of talking to the world intrigued me. However, I don't know why. I was never a talker; especially, to someone I don't know!

Although he tried to be my Elmer, he lived in Michigan. So, I tried to go it alone. Having no other interested friends, I tried to do it alone, unsuccessfully.

After a couple of unsuccessful years at college, I enlisted in the Navy for a four year term. I wanted to be an electronics technician. Maybe I would finally be able to understand this electronics thing! However, the Navy had other ideas. They said I was red/green color-blind so I could not be in electronics (or related fields). I became a Yeoman. I subsequently successfully changed rates to Quartermaster (ships navigation). I couldn't be in electronics because of red/green colorblindness; however, they would let me guide multimillion dollar ships through red and green marked channels. Go figure!

So much for radio and electronics. Other interests occupied my time until the CB craze of the 70's. I was bitten, like everyone else in the country. After tiring of 'Smoky' and 'SeatCover' reports, I finally decided to look for more interesting conversations. I studied for and received my Technician license (KE4VHA) in 1995. I got

my first HT and started enjoying company on my drive to and from work each day.

I participated in a balloon launch in Georgia that year. An article and pictures related to that event were published in CQ magazine. That issue of the magazine reconnected me with my elmer (K8LZL) who I had not had any contact with in 40 years! He encouraged me to continue with my progress; so, I started studying the code.

I thought code would be easy. I transmitted and received code at 13wpm while a quartermaster in the Navy. I soon learned that flashing-light didn't translate easily into sound in my brain! However, I persevered and got Tech Plus in 1996.

My wife and I bought a sailboat in 2000 and brought it to Seneca Lake (Waterloo) and lived on it for the summers of 2001 and 2002. That was my first sailboat, so those summers were spent learning to sail. I thought it would be fun to do some extended cruising. So, I studied for my general so I could connect to home while on my extended trips. I finally got my General ticket in 2004. Since then, I have determined a: I don't need a radio on Seneca Lake, and b: Seneca Lake is probably going to be the extent of my sailing!

In 2003, we learned our son and daughter-in-law, who live in Ithaca, were expecting our first grand-child. About that same time, we decided to leave metropolitan Atlanta for somewhere else. The expectancy of a grandchild determined the destination, New York.

I was able to bring my job with me. My wife became the Director of Phelps Community Memorial Library.

This fall, I attended the September RARA meeting and learned they were having their licensing classes again; so, I decided why not! I enrolled in the Amateur Extra class.

I sat for the exam at the SIARC's November testing session. I passed. I am now AC2HK.

I have several HT's, a Kenwood TS-820, a Yeasu FT-840, and a Yeasu FT-817. I have decided

the only way I am going to get any decent contacts on the FT-817 is using code. Therefore,

I am reacquainting myself with Mr. Morse's code. I also like to toy around with the digital modes.

President's Thoughts

I did not have much time for ham radio this past month as we were traveling with Field Band (the band did well at the National Competition in Annapolis, Maryland) and have been without my primary vehicle (had to replace it because of a fried differential). So hopefully, I will be back mobile and on the air soon. It is always fun trying to figure out where to put the radio and antenna so it all fits together and works for the family too. Maybe in the spring, we can have an outside meeting where we look at each others mobile set ups and get more ideas for antennas and radio mounting. I will bet there are many different ways to secure a radio.

See you at the next meeting and on the air. And remember to Talk Up Ham Radio.

73, Tom KB2NCI