



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club
Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

January 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

It is hard to believe that it is the last day of 2011 as I write this, and we still have not had much winter. I am thinking, watch out for January, February, etc. I hope it gets it out of its system by the end of March!

Our next meeting, Wednesday January 11, will have an auction of some items we have received as donations. Some of the equipment will be retained by the club for member use and that includes: Kenwood TS 120S with power supply, MFJ 949D antenna tuner and MFJ 259B antenna analyzer. A Kenwood HT was donated and Scott, N2UMH, has offered to set up to be used with the Argent APRS unit the club owns.

The following items will be up for auction: 50ohm low pass filter, Heathkit Electronic keyer, ACDC Power Supply, Yaesu FT901DE with desk mike (needs a power cord), Cobra 148GTL CB/SSB radio with Vista IIIR power supply, Optimus SA155 Stereo Amplifier, Mystery (junction) Box, Unimetrics Marine Radio (no cord), Packet/Modem serial cables, Dentron Jr. Monitor Antenna tuner, HP Scanner, 2 CW keyers, Hayes Smart Modem (1200 baud). All proceeds go to the club (hurray says Stan!).

Past Events

Our annual Christmas Party was held on December 14 at the AWA Media Center. About 20 members with some guests attended. There was lots of food and drink and the highlight was the presentation of the VX5 HT to James Rosato, KD2AVK, from David Lee Foster WA2BQT. James was quite surprised and was even able to make his first QSO with Bob W2CNS. Big smiles all around. See you next year this fun event.

Steve, WB2VMR, Gib, KC2JTU, and Tom, KB2NCI, visited the National Weather Service office in Buffalo on December 3 for Skywarn Recognition Day. The only other ham there at the time was Duane K2SI, so we had plenty of radio room to operate and make contacts with other NWS offices and hams. We stay for a few hours and after lunch, left as several others arrived to take over for us. Arriving were Bill WB2SXY, wife Pam (I don't remember her call) and couple of others for the afternoon shift. Judy Levan is always a great hostess.

Upcoming Events

On January 8, this coming Sunday, we will be having a Kids Day operation at the EOC with set up at 9am and take down at 3pm. We can use the EOC HF and D-Star stations and will have 2 to 3 HF stations set up in a classroom. As the name suggests, the purpose is to get kids on the air so if you can bring a kid or two, feel free. But, you do not have to bring a child to attend. Come anyway. It is not a contest, just an informal time to have fun on the radio. We could use a couple of dipoles, so if you have one, bring it.

The next SIARC/Ontario County Ham Radio breakfast will be on Saturday, January 28 at 8am at the Villager Restaurant, 245 S. Main St, Canandaigua. All interested parties are welcome, just let Tom KB2NCI, know by the 20th if you will be coming, so I can alert the restaurant.

I would like to see us be able to help James KD2AVK and Jeanne KA2OXS (life member living in Honeoye) set up stations so they can keep in contact with us and enjoy the wireless world of amateur radio. We will be discussing this in future meetings.

Field Day (June 23 and 24) planning should begin soon as we may need to reserve a site. Start thinking of what you would like to do.

Odds and Ends

Ten meters has been hopping, so I hope you have had a chance to get in on the fun. The North American CW (Jan 14 and 15) and SSB (Jan 21 and 22) QSO Parties are coming up. The VHF Sweepstakes is January 21 to 23 and the Winter Field Day (January 28-29) are among several contest type events this month. Check out the January QST for details.

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
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

I'm Jay Hamill, KC2TCM, and I live in Phelps. I have been licensed since March of 2008. My wife, WD2STK, and I attended one of RARA's Technician licensing classes which was taught by Brad, W1YX. I upgraded to General at the 2008 RARA Hamfest, which I still hold today.

My interest in radio communications goes back to when I was a kid back in New Jersey. I had several sets of 27 and 49 MHz "toy" walkie talkies, and eventually my Dad (KC2TNJ) let me use a GE 3-5801A CB radio, with his homemade power supply, a D-104 TUG-8 microphone, and his home-built PDL-II beam antenna. It had to be pinned in place because the (again, home-built) rotator had failed. Eventually we used the radiators from that antenna as a ground plane for a 102" fiberglass antenna, and turned it into a

vertical, since we weren't planning on repairing the rotator. Next antenna was an Antron-99, which stayed on the house until 1994 when we moved to Walworth. Even before I got my first car on the road, I had installed a CB radio in it, and have had some sort of two way radio in each of my vehicles ever since.

I also have been into Commodore computers since the early 80's. Started with a Vic-20 in the house, and then upgraded to a C128 in 1985. I was the Hardware Director for CEBUG (Commodore East Brunswick Users Group) for several years, and was doing presentations and hardware repairs for the club. I still have 2 Commodore computers setup as well as a boatload computers and peripherals.

My shack at home consists of a Heath SB-1400 with matching power supply/speaker and an MFJ-993B auto tuner. I have a G5RV Jr. strung between two pine trees as well as an Antron 99 antenna on the house for HF. For VHF, I have a Yaesu 2800M, and a 17' fiberglass vertical dual band antenna on the roof. I usually keep my AEA PK-96 TNC on the air on 144.950, and also have a FoxDelta SC-2 sound card interface for other digital modes. I have two FT-7800's in two of my vehicles, and an FT-2600 that I keep in my go-kit with an SC-1 interface, PacComm HandiPacket TNC, laptop computer, and various accessories. Many of you know of my collection of HT's which include a Yaesu FT-60R, two Wouxun KG-UV2D's, Kenwood TH-K2AT, ADI HT-204, Quansheng TH-K4AT and two HYS TC-VU88's. I also hold a GMRS license, and a box full of GMRS HT's. I also have an Argent OpenTracker USB for APRS.

Most of my time is spent on either 2m or 70cm, but I do enjoy getting on HF, especially during and after HamNation on Tuesday evenings. I've done some Field Day operating in Ontario and Wayne counties, but I'm more of a "casual" operator. I like to help out with public service events, and have participated in a few triathlons, marathons, and parades locally, and the STPR race in Pennsylvania.

Other hobbies include offroading in my Bronco from time to time, modifying and upgrading my SRT-4 (as time and funding permits), and keeping my WJ and my wife's ZJ running with over 200,000 miles on each

of them. I also enjoy firearms, and have gone hunting in the past.
73, Jay KC2TCM

President's Thoughts

I hope that every one had a wonderful Christmas season and got some new toys to enjoy the hobby with. I was fortunate to have my family here (son home from college) and we had a quiet time and dinner together. I am very lucky to be here in Ontario County and have such a great group of friends, both in and out of amateur radio. Our great hobby continues to grow and even though we don't all agree all the time (how boring that would be) we still enjoy the fellowship on the air and face to face. And we are ready to support our communities if necessary. Our club is an active and interesting one and 2012 will undoubtedly prove that to be so. I encourage each and every one of us to be as active with our group as you can and if you need help with something, please ask. Someone has the knowledge to assist you.

See you at the meeting and events! And remember to Talk Up Ham Radio.

73, Tom KB2NCI