

Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club
Smoke Signals
October 2009



Greetings!

In this addition of Smoke Signals we will try to bring you up to date on all the current and recent past events for our club.

Club Elections:

Our annual elections were held during our September 9th meeting. Your club officers are:

Scott Teresi (N2UMH) President
Steve Benton (WB2VMR) Vice President
Raymond J Dreimiller (AB2UY) Secretary
Stan Avery (WM3D) Treasurer

Other club positions:

Directors

Bill Reiter (WA2UKX)
Jim Rice (KA2BSG)

Repeater Trustee

Steve Sykes (KD2OM)

Committee Chairs

Dave Foster (AB2WZ), Public Service & Emergency Communications
Steve Sykes (KD2OM), Technical Committee

Also during our meeting we had demonstrations on the MT-63 digital mode and Airmail. After the meeting stations were setup in the meeting rooms and exchange messages with the W2ONT station. MT-63 and Airmail (along with APRS) have been chosen by the ARES/RACES group as the primary "digital" modes for emergency communications. Airmail is one of the programs that can be used in the Winlink 2000 system. Winlink

2000 has become very popular in recent years. It interfaces amateur radio and E-mail almost seamlessly. MT-63 has been around for a long time. It is a sound card mode, meaning all you need is a computer with the right software and a soundcard. On VHF or higher you can use its 2k mode to transmit a digital message without the use of a TNC, or even a cable from your computer to the radio. You can hold your radio up to the speaker or microphone of your computer. Scott Teresi, N2UMH has two programs that can run MT-63 available. Contact him if you would like a copy.

Most digital modes are done on simplex frequencies. Some may be used on a repeater with permission of the repeater owner. You may use any appropriate digital mode on SIARC's 146.820 (k2bwk) and ARES/RACES 145.450 and 442.200 (w2ont). Just remember to be courteous to other users, announce what you are doing (N2UMH with a MT-63 transmission), and obey all FCC rules (of course).

Upcoming Events

Two big events are coming this month, the NYS QSO party, and Pumpkin Patrol. Here are a few words about these events:

From: Dave Taylor KB2KBY, Wayne County ARES E.C.

PUMPKIN PATROL 2009-OCTOBER 30th & 31st

It is Pumpkin Patrol time once again and volunteers are needed. The Squaw Island, Ontario County ARES/RACES, and Drumlins ARCs are once again working together to cover the 8 'posts' covering all the bridges of the Thruway in Ontario County. Help will be needed both nights of October 30th and 31st, Friday and Saturday nights. The Ontario County RACES will be manned as NCS for the two nights, also. Volunteers are needed for the bridge sitting and only two of the 16 posts (8 posts/night), have been filled thus far. (Both of those posts are Friday night.) Between the two ARC memberships it is hoped enough volunteers would give their time so any one volunteer would have to bridge sit one night at a bridge! As you can see this does not cover extra help needed at the NCS which would be nice.

Please call or e-mail Scott, N2UMH, or Dave, KB2KBY to volunteer for the Pumpkin Patrol 2009. The earlier you volunteer you could grab the night you wish.

Contact Scott or Dave as soon as you can. Bridge watchers need materials 'snail' mailed to them provided by Troop 'T' prior to the Friday or Saturday. When you volunteer, please, give the plate number of the vehicle you will be using. The plate number helps the local Police, Sheriff and Troop 'E' agencies know better who you are and why you are there.

73 & 88,

Scott (Teresi) N2UMH, Ontario County ARES E.C.; 585-314-8429/n2umh(at)yahoo.com

Dave (Taylor) KB2KBY, Wayne County ARES E.C. ; 315-597-4293/kb2kby(at)rochester.rr.com

P.S. As a convenience to Scott, if you can, contact Dave, KB2KBY, as he is the coordinator with Troop 'T' for the Pumpkin Patrol and Dave is the retired one with more time. Ha!

Email forwarded from W2SKY

You've waited 25 years and now the time has arrived...

!!! CQ NYQP !!!

New York State QSO Party

Saturday, October 17 - 1800 UTC (2:00 PM Eastern) - 12 hours

(Third weekend in October)

Check out the NYQP web at www.NYQP.org for complete Rules, FAQ's, Software, Forum, County maps and Log submissions.

Review the Rules section for any "tweaks". All logs, in Cabrillo format, due by November 2, 2009 at 0600 UTC.

Over thirty plaques to be awarded. www.NYQP.org/sponsorship.php

NY fixed stations send: <call sign>, signal report, County (3 letter abbreviation)

NY mobile stations send: <call sign>/M, signal report, County (3 letter abbreviation)

Outside NY send: <call sign>, signal report, State or Province

DX send: <call sign>, signal report, DX

Report on the 2009 Triathlon



On Sunday September 20th our members worked with Ontario County ARES/RACES in the Mary M. Gooley Hemophilia Center annual triathlon. There were over 1,000 racers this year and the event sold out more than a month in advance. We had 7 stations out on the course, the EOC manned and a Net Control Station. K2BWK 146.820 was utilized for the entire course. In addition we had APRS in the lead vehicle with the SCORE-THIS!!! staff and we provided a sweep vehicle with APRS and ATV. There was one incident which required emergency services and our members were able to summon help to the location in a quick, efficient and professional manner. Thanks to Ron W2FUI, Lee KC2UTH, Tom KB2NCI, Jay KC2TCM, Sabrina WD2STK, Dave AB2WZ, NCS Larry N2MLH, and our event command Steve WB2VMR.

Our next meeting is Wednesday October 14th 7PM at the PSTF.

For our presentation we will display the technology used at the triathlon event, APRS and ATV. There will also be time for anyone to present or demonstrate any part of Amateur Radio they are interested in and want to share with the rest of the membership. Contact

Scott N2UMH 585-314-8429 if you need any special set up. A power point projector is available.

Presidents Note for the Month

In this months CQ (October 2009) there are a couple of excellent articles. The first by Rich Moseson, W2VU is an interview with Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT. Dr. Taylor is a Nobel laureate in physics and acknowledges that the amateur radio hobby helped him with his career and accomplishments. He got his leg up in radio astronomy from the lessons he learned from amateur radio.

The second article is by Bill Kearns, WB6JAR, "You Next Mobile Rig May Be Your Cell Phone!" In it, basically, Bill shows how you can use your cell phone or an internet connection to remote control your rig. His options show how to interface even a basic no bells 2 meter transceiver for remote operations. This article gives us two good ideas beyond the technology presented in it. One our hobby can remain relevant and useful in todays ever advancing technical interconnected world. Amateur radio can enhance and be enhanced by the technology that all of us use daily. The second idea relates back to our hobby's beginnings. One of the cores of amateur radio is experimentation. The first rig of many hams is no longer the home brewed transmitter made of spare TV parts assembled by you or with the guidance of an Elmer. One can still make a home brew rig or even buy a kit to assemble a modern transceiver, but our "serious" experimentation is not limited to just that. For those of us who lack electrical engineering degrees (on paper or self taught) there are still many avenues of experimentation to pursue beyond making your first antenna (but still an excellent start). We now live in an era where we can experiment putting different modules together, interfacing amateur radio with other systems, and finding new an interesting ways to make the hobby helpful to you and others. As long as we obey the law, and respect our fellow hams the sky is the limit.