



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

January 2024

www.siarc.us

Welcome to January and the New Year. It is a typical gray day in the Rochester area. But, winter has not really appeared. Oh well, we take what we get.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. All are welcome. This will be our annual club Flea Market, so collect the items around your shack that you would like to move along, mark them with your call sign and price and bring to some cash to help others. See you then! The meeting will follow the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm.

We continue to hold the **Health and Welfare net** on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (except club meeting nights) so there is ample opportunity to catch up with your friends. We just had net #943 on Friday. Thank you to all who have checked in over the last 3+ years. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

Our December meeting was the annual holiday party at the AWA in Bloomfield. Stan and crew were great hosts to the 20 or so in attendance. Joanne KD2FCX won the club donated ARRL book on Radio Propagation. There was plenty of food for all to enjoy. And we were able to see the new ham stations set up to show the progression of radio equipment.

Anyone get any interesting radio related gifts for Christmas? Tell us about them and how they work for you.

I know a couple of our folks have been doing some Parks on the Air activations and operating from your outdoor sites, any reports on the fun you are having? We would all be very interested in hearing from you!

Any interesting or unusual contacts made? What have you been doing with amateur radio? Build anything interesting? Let me know and I can publicize it. And you can always show it off by doing a little program for the club. Any new radios or equipment in your inventory?

Upcoming Events

The new Yaesu Repeater has arrived and is in the process of being programmed and installed at the VA tower. We will keep the current repeater on site in case it is needed.

The January 10th meeting will be our **annual club Flea Market** so if you have items that you would like to move along, get them together, put a price and your call sign on them and bring them that night.

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on January 10, 2024. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team of dedicated volunteer examiners. You provide a great service to the ham radio community. She will need VEs to help administer the exams, so please contact her if you can help. See the SIARC website, Exam page, for details.

The weekend of January 27 and 28 is **Winter Field Day** and I will be hosting a station or two at my home in Victor (6310 Gillis Road, near Cline Road) on Saturday the 27th. If you would like to operate a little winter activity, keep the date in mind. It is a fun time to try out some of your portable equipment as well, so bring it on over. The operating starts at 2pm local, we will run into the evening and Sunday morning (if there is interest) and we will do final set up Saturday morning. We will work out of my garage and can close the doors if necessary. There will be a talk in station set up on the 146.820- (110.9) repeater.

I have reserved the Villager Restaurant back room (south Main St, Canandaigua) for our next Ham Radio Breakfast on **Saturday, February 17, 2024** at 8am. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL Kids Day, ARRL RTTY Roundup, North

American QSO Party SSB and CW, ARRL January VHF Contest, Winter Field Day, lots of Parks on the Air stations, and many others. See the January QST pages 76 and 91 and the WA7BNM website www.contestcalendar.com 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!

I will start soliciting operators for the 2024 public service events soon and I look forward to hearing from and working with all of you.

Upcoming Public Service activities for 2024 (as of this date):

Wild Water Derby, Saturday, April 27

Seneca 7 Relay Run around Seneca Lake, Sunday, April 28 (new event for us)

Tour De Cure, June 8 (new route into Ontario County)

Shortsville Fire Department Parade, June 14 (probably)

Musselman Triathlon, July 14

Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter, August 3 (probably)

Finger Lakes Triathlon, September 8

Wineglass Marathon, October 6

Pumpkin Patrol, October 30 and 31

We are fortunate to be invited to help with all of these events, so please make time next year to help as much as you can. It provides many opportunities to practice our skills to fulfill our mandate for the Amateur Radio Service from the FCC.

The **Drumlins Hamfest** is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Palmyra VFW on SR 31. Add the date to your calendar so you can support our friends in Wayne County.

The fourth weekend in June (22 and 23) is **ARRL Field Day 2024**. We need to decide on a location agreeable to us and the Drumlins ARC and if we need to reserve it, that should be done in January. I have reserved the EOC grounds and Room 1 for us to use as a backup.

The **Antique Wireless Association** is working on a project to bring amateur radio and all of its fun to school age children by constructing a portable station that could be taken to the students. They are looking for any interested parties to help with this project. Below are their goals for the program:

Goal: To introduce and educate children about communication technologies as a component of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) by:

- a. Constructing a self-contained, portable amateur radio station transportable in an enclosed cargo trailer for the purpose of educating and demonstrating to children the basics of wireless communications during good times and in emergencies; and
- b. Supporting a special effort to reach out to our region's underserved rural communities; and
- c. Facilitating visits to schools, scouts, libraries, camps, homeschool groups, fairs and public service events; and
- d. Supporting AWA's educational outreach efforts, which extend well beyond the AWA campus.

If you are interested, please contact Bob Hobday at president@antiquewireless.org

I was informed that the course for the **2024 Tour De Cure** has been changed and will come down into Ontario County, around Canandaigua Lake and be based out of Finger Lakes Community College. I am hopeful we can increase our participation as a club for the June 8th event.

RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

Thank you to the Ontario County Emergency Management Office for its continued support.

Emergency Management from the County Administrator's News Letter

Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management has a new Director, John Yannotti. John started December 4th and is getting acclimated. John succeeds Jeff Harloff who retired this past June.

Our new "boss" is also a ham (I am not sure of his call sign yet), so it will be very interesting to show him our "ropes" and get him involved with Ontario County RACES/ARES.

The next **RACES meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 9am in the Safety Training Center Conference Room. All RACES members are encouraged and welcome to attend. We also have 3 evening meetings scheduled for 2024 (March 21, July 25 and November 14). If you are interested in joining ARES/RACES, please attend or contact us as well.

Our next training exercise is scheduled for Saturday, February 10 at 9am in the Safety Training Center. All RACES/ARES members are encouraged to attend. Details to follow.

I encourage all of you to check into our **weekly RACES/ARES nets**, which are on Sundays at 8pm (except around holidays) (you are invited to check into any other net also) and practice those skills that someday you may be called upon to use. They are held on the W2ONT 145.450- (pl 110.9) repeater. We are also looking for additional stations to practice being Net Control and Assistant Net Control. In the event we are called out, having experience as Net Control will be very beneficial. We will be migrating to a more digital usage for the nets. Use of FLDIGI and MT63 will be very important for our mission to assist the Emergency Management Office. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at kb2nci@gmail.com or 585-924-0752. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please contact me or our Radio Officer, Steve WB2VMR. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep the roster as current as possible.

The **New York State RACES net** is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 3993.5kHz LSB and members are always welcome and to get some more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 3583.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try!

Monitor the W2ONT 145.450 repeater in times of severe weather or area wide power outages. And if you do not hear anyone, start up an informal ARES net.

To receive emails on a national basis for ARES, ARRL members can subscribe to the ARES Letter by going to the ARRL website, Public Service tab, ARES tab, ARES Letter and then "How to Subscribe". It is a very informative publication.

Member Profile and Picture

No volunteers for October. Anyone for February and beyond?

Odd and Ends

The ARRL Teachers Institute will be holding several sessions this coming summer. See more information below. As soon as I see dates for 2024, I will post them.

ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology



The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help classroom teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology. As a part of the ARRL **Education & Technology Program**, several sessions are conducted each year, and the program continues to grow. Teachers Institute is filled with lectures, hands-on activities, and demonstrations to inspire teachers so they can inspire their students through the use of tools and strategies to introduce basic electronics, radio science, satellite communications, Amateur Radio, radio direction finding (fox hunting), weather science, microcontrollers, and electronic sensors to their students. Teachers are provided with the equipment needed to take wireless technology to their classrooms. If you, or someone you know, would like to support ARRL's mission to elevate STEM programs in schools, click here: **DONATE TODAY** or contact the ARRL Development Office at (860)594-0291

A new link, **NY weather MESONET**, has been added to the SIARC website. It is a map of weather stations around New York State operated by the University at Albany, Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. Check it out!! [NYS Mesonet](#)

May 3, 2023, the transition period ends for all amateur transmitters to be compliant with the FCC Exposure Rules. We have had two years to get into compliance and now the time has come to “get ‘er done”. The complete article is in the May QST, pages 64, 65 and 66. It is our time to show the FCC that we can follow the rules for safe operation of our stations. You can also go to [RF Exposure Calculator \(arrl.org\)](#)

The IARU has designated **14.300 mhz** as a worldwide center of activity frequency for emergency traffic. There are two nets that run from 7am to 10pm eastern time daily. The **Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net**, aka Intercon, (www.intercontinentalnet.org) operates from 7am to noon and the **Maritime Mobile Services Net** (www.mmsn.org) operates daily from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times. Listen in for some interesting conversations.

A few months ago, I asked for some assistance with a couple of areas and these are the folks I tapped.

Technical Committee Chair—Steve WB2VMR

Programs—Sandy KA2HQZ

Publicity—Doug KD2LGE

Please contact them if you would like to assist in their area or have ideas.

A new **RF Exposure Calculator** has been added to the Links on the SIARC website.

For all the new hams, are you aware of **QRZ.com**? It is a wealth of information on hams WORLDWIDE and carries informative articles, editorials. It is editable by the individual

ham so can be updated as often as you like. They also have a logger for your contacts. Check it out!

I would encourage all ARRL members to check out the new publication the League has introduced, **“On the Air”**, aimed at new hams and those experienced hams that have some questions. The November/December issue covers many topics, including articles on Public Service and ICS forms, Contesting in VHF/UHF bands, Coaxial Connector Adaptors and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership. Your membership allows you to see the digital version of all of their periodicals QST, QEX and NCJ.

Discover the ARRL Learning Center and how to “Make Amateur Radio Your Own” at [Make Amateur Radio Your Own | ARRL Learning Center](#). Give a look-see!!

NEW REPEATERS:

The W2WDS 146.985- (82.5) repeater is up and running in Naples. This is the former frequency for the N2LSJ repeater in Penn Yan. There is also an APRS I-Gate at this site. This repeater is linked to the WB2KAO 444.850+ (110.9) repeater in Greece only on Saturday nights for the Green Eggs and Hams Net.

There is a **new 6 meter repeater** on the air, from Naples. The call sign is W2WDS. It is on a tower site space provided by Dean, W2WDS, and the frequency is 53.110- (pl 82.5). The **440 repeater on the same site**, 442.500+ (82.5) is on the air as well. The 442.500 is linked to the WB2KAO repeater 444.850+ (110.9) in Greece. Many of our members have been getting on the air with 6 meters. Looks like fun. Thanks to Dave W2ACC and Dean W2WDS for these upgrades.

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. Steve has also started posting the Minutes of the Board Meetings, which will be held at various times throughout the year. Thanks to Steve, KD2OM, for keeping the website up to date.

For local repeaters, you can go to www.rochesterham.org and click on Useful Links 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.

If you travel, look at www.repeaterbook.com for lots of repeater information. They have an app for your phone that shows repeaters within 50 miles of where you are. Another ham site with useful information for New York state is Upstate Ham [Upstate NY HAM Radio News & Information \(upstateham.com\)](http://UpstateNYHAMRadioNews&Information.upstateham.com) with many repeater lists. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information on repeaters and public safety.

W2ACC has repeaters up in Romulus 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. The 220mHz 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).

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. He would love to hear from you! You can also send your renewals to me, Tom Sanders at 6310 Gillis Road, Victor, NY 14564 and I will forward to Stan.

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. canceling 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 (\$15) and renewal (\$5) 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 work 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

STILL GOING---Since March 17, 2020, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820 repeater, nightly at 8pm, Monday through Friday. It is intended as a net for hams to keep in contact with others. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear

from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net **#943** and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK	Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net
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) W2ARM	Thursdays 7pm Monroe County ARES/RACES net
3993.5kHz LSB	Sundays at 9am New York State RACES net

Club/RACES Repeaters

K2BWK	146.820- (110.9) Canandaigua
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—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

Happy New Year to all of you and I wish you a fun and exciting year of amateur radio. Each January can bring you new challenges within the hobby and I hope you can avail yourself of many of them. The club brings many talented folks together and we can all learn from them. If you have questions that need answering and don't know who to ask, feel free to contact me and I will do my best to steer you to the answer. That is my favorite roll as president and through the time of my tenure, I have discovered some of the talents of most of our members. Our first operating event will be the Winter Field Day (January 27) at my home. This will be our third year participating in this event and it offers a great experience and opportunity to have fun and learn about stations and propagation. If you have a desire to host an operating event, let me know and we can discuss it. I have learned a lot by having these at my home so you can too!

The other part of the hobby that I encourage us all to participate in, is in the area of Public Service. It is part of our mandate from the FCC rules to be available to help the public in times of emergencies or disasters and the events listed above in the newsletter offer many

chances to train and practice for those. Exotic equipment is not required. Only a desire to help out and a mobile radio and/or handheld for VHF/UHF. And, there is equipment available to borrow if you do not have what is needed. The participants always appreciate us volunteering to keep them safe, so that is an important thing to remember and enjoy.

Have Fun and Talk Up Ham Radio, Be Safe and I hope to catch you on the radio!
Get Active/Get Involved!

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

kb2nci@arrl.net

585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

The Amateur's Code^[SEP] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[SEP] The Radio^[SEP] Amateur is:

^[SEP]CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.^[SEP]

LOYAL Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other^[SEP] amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League,^[SEP] through which Amateur Radio in the United States is^[SEP] represented nationally and internationally.^[SEP]

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^[SEP] advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These^[SEP] are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

^[SEP]BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to^[SEP] family, job, school or community.^[SEP]

PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and^[SEP] community.