



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

January 2023

www.siarc.us

Welcome to the new year and 2023. It still sounds like a long way off. Not a bad way to enter the year, weather wise. It is rainy and 49 degrees. Much warmer than last weekend.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at the Safety Training Center on County Road 48 and begins at 7:30pm. The meeting will be held after the Laurel VE testing session at 6:30pm. Instead of a program, we will hold our **annual intra club Flea Market**, where members can bring items to sell or swap. Go through your inventory and see what you want to move along. It is a great time to visit as well.

Please be aware that because of the Russian Invasion, ALL amateur radio activity in Ukraine (UR-UZ, EM-EO) has been suspended. So sad that this war continues.

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 #705 this week. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The December meeting was our holiday get together and was held at the AWA in Bloomfield. Thank you to our host, Stan WM3D who did an excellent job on the pizza. There were lots of tasty dishes to enjoy as well. We have many good cooks in the group.

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

Anyone interested in operating for **Winter Field Day**? It is the weekend of January 28 and 29 (2pm to 2pm) and we could set up a station or two at the EOC or elsewhere. Let's talk about it!! See [Home - Winter Field Day](#) for details.

The **next VE Session** is scheduled for January 11, 2023 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED**. Contact Sabrina, WD2STK, at testing@siarc.us if you would like to be on the list of examinees. She will also need VEs. See www.siarc.us under Radio Amateur Exams for complete information. Thanks to Sabrina and her team for keeping this worthwhile project up and running.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL Kids Day, North American QSO party, ARRL VHF contest, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Winter Field Day, and many others. See the January QST pages 74 and 88 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!

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

SAVE the date—the Drumlins Hamfest will be April 22!!!

And, this year marks the club's 70th Birthday. What can we do?

RACES and ARES

The next scheduled Admin Meeting will be on Thursday, January 12 at 9am at the Safety Training Center. All RACES members are welcome to attend. We will be discussing the upcoming Exercise on January 14.

We are scheduling an exercise to be held at the Safety Training Center on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 9am for all interested RACES members. Details will 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@arri.net or 585-924-0752. If you are not a member and would like to

become one, please see or contact me. And please let me know if you have a change in contact information. We need to keep it 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 net.

Odd and Ends

The Maritime Mobile Services Net (mmsn.org) operates daily on 14.300mhz from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times.

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. The calculator was produced by the Lake Washington Ham Club in Redmond, Washington. Check it out and be prepared for the rule change requiring amateurs to evaluate their stations for RF Exposure. Below is the link to the FAQ from the ARRL.

[RF Exposure Calculator FAQ.pdf](#)

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 Linked Repeaters, Ham Radio Satellites, Building a 10 meter Moxon antenna, 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:

Dave W2ACC reports that 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 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. I recommend becoming a member of UNYREPCO as that covers our immediate area.

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. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information.

Dave W2ACC has repeaters up in Waterloo 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. Dave's 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).

From Dave, W2ACC

"There is a **220 net** on Tuesday night 7:00 pm and three nets on Friday night. 7:00 pm is the Syracuse world net followed by Tech net and the a swap net. My 220 is tied into all of them along with KA2NDW and KD2SL

My 900 MHz repeater is up and running"

927.212	902.212
5	5

With an 82.5 tone

All are welcome

73

Dave

W2ACC

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 try 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 during the virus situation. It has been lots of fun to participate and hear from so many, and ALL are welcome. We just completed net #705 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) N2MPE	Thursdays (except 4 th) 9pm Monroe County 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

For my thoughts for January, I am going to borrow the thoughts of the owner of the Quicksilver Radio Products, John Bee N1GNV about making the upcoming year a great one. This was sent to me by my good friend, Stan WM3D.

Hi Stan,

I just want to take few minutes to wish you and yours the very best for the Holiday Season. May it be filled with the joy and warmth that family and friends bring. I have many wonderful memories of my own childhood Christmastimes; many more of them when my children were young; and now we're making new ones as they have grown into adulthood. Seeing one's children mature into happy and productive people is truly one of the best gifts we can receive. Many of my customers are already Grandparents, and I'm sure that is another source of happiness, especially at this time of year.

After two years of Covid-Craziness it's great to be back to normal, or at least close to it. At this point most of the major Hamfests are happening and attendance has been good. We're not quite out of the woods quite yet, but I'm confident that we're on the right track and 2023 will be an even better year for all of us.

2022 marked my 20th year in business, and I can honestly say I still enjoy it as much as ever. Without such great customers, this would never have been possible. It's always gratifying to hear either in person at a Hamfest, or by e-mail, that you enjoy my newsletters and find useful information on my Web Site. I truly appreciate your support, your business, and your understanding as we've worked through the unique circumstances the past years have brought. Having a job that I enjoy in a hobby that I love is something I'm thankful for each and every day.

As 2022 slides into 2023, it's natural to think about plans for the coming year. And I'd like to ask a favor of you -- please put Ham Radio on your list of New Year's Resolutions. Here are some ideas to consider:

1. If, by chance, you are not yet a licensed Ham Radio Operator, get your license this year. If you have not yet passed your General or Extra test, do it this year. Having trouble studying or passing? I have some tips on my Web Site that I think will be helpful. [Click here to see them](#)
2. Try something. A good friend of mine likes to say that there are 30 different kinds of Ham Radio, and there's something there for everyone. FM repeaters and HF SSB just scratch the surface. You already have a computer. New digital and sound card modes seem to appear weekly. Not long ago, no one had heard of FT-8. It's now, by many accounts, the most popular HF Digital mode. Have you tried 6 Meters yet? The Magic Band can yield some surprising contacts. How low can you go? There's some interesting action on our newest bands at 630 and 2200 Meters. At (literally) the other end of the spectrum, we have Ham Bands well into the GHz region. Microwaves are useful for more than making popcorn! Or maybe try some SSB or CW on 2 Meters or 70 Centimeters? Every Ham has full privileges on all of the bands above 30 MHz. Antennas for VHF and UHF are small and easy to construct from hardware store parts. It doesn't have to be pretty -- an ugly antenna will radiate just as well. POTA (Parks on the Air) seems to be growing by leaps and bounds. Head out to a local park. KISS! Keep It Simple, Sonny. TWIT! Throw Wire In Trees. Hook up a radio and a battery and have some fun. Check out the [POTA Web site](#) for even more fun. Use your imagination and try something different!
3. Do something. Set an achievable Ham Radio goal for the year -- and then work at it! Earn DXCC or WAS, maybe on a single band? Better your contest score by 10%? Get your CW speed up to 20 WPM? Reorganize and rewire the shack? Order a

copy of the ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book, and start increasing your technical knowledge? Convert your paper logs to electronic format and start using Logbook of the World? One of my Dad's favorite sayings was "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." Just do it!!

4. Build something. Too many years ago, as I newly licensed Ham I got very involved in Packet Radio. With a double throw switch and some mic connectors, I built a box to allow either voice or data use by just flipping the switch. OK, not exactly cutting edge, but it worked and led me to build plenty of other handy gadgets over the years. Simple projects can also be a great way to teach new hams the basics of soldering and kit-building. String up that antenna you've been thinking about forever and see how it plays. Download a free antenna modeling program and learn how to use it to design and build your own BandBlaster. Order a kit and assemble it. Melt some solder and have fun! Once you start you'll be hooked.

5. Learn something. Microcontrollers like the Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and PICaxe are quite inexpensive. With a few LEDs and pushbuttons you can learn simple programming to get started. There are plenty of useful Ham Radio projects that you can find online. And if you have an idea for your own gadget, you'll have a lot of fun learning how to roll your own computer code.

6. Teach something. You know how to do things others don't, but would like to learn. Are you already familiar with programming microcontrollers? How about a club project to teach the basics to other members? Or a demonstration on using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors?

7. Become a "HAMbassador". Get just one person (or two, or three) interested in Amateur Radio. Offer to demonstrate Ham Radio at the Senior Citizens' center, Boy or Girl Scout meetings, the Rotary Club, or any similar organization. Groups like that

are always looking for an interesting speaker or activity. On-line meetings mean you can do it right from home, no need to travel! A simple but impressive and effective demonstration is to bring an HT and ask for a "Roll Call". Notify your club in advance... all they need to do is reply with "This is (name, callsign) in (town)." Remember that we're Hams because we enjoy talking to other people. The more Hams, the more contacts we can make.

8. Get involved! Join your local Radio Club. If you need help finding a club, [look here](#). If you already belong, attend the meetings. Just about every club (not just Radio Clubs) has the same problem -- 10% of the people do 90% of the work. You don't need to volunteer for everything... select an area that interests you, and help with that. Even better, suggest an activity and then take the lead in organizing it. Something as simple as "I'm going to set up a portable station at the park on Saturday morning, everyone is welcome to come by" can be a great time. If you add "Free coffee and donuts" to your announcement, you'll draw a real crowd ;-)

9. Stay positive, ignore the negative. Don't listen to the cranky old farts who insist that "Ham Radio is dying". Or better yet, [point them here](#) where they'll find that the number of licensees is at or near an all-time high. Participation in contests remains strong, even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Manufacturers continue to introduce new models that we could barely dream of just a few years ago. Hamfests that are well-organized and well-run are thriving again. Ham Radio has been evolving for over a century now, and it continues to do so. The Magic of Radio never goes away.

10. Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2023!

Once again, my sincere best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season and New Year.

Thanks and warmest 73,

John Bee, N1GNV

Quicksilver Radio Products

www.qsradio.com

Take care of yourself and each other.

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

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

kb2nci@arrl.net

585-924-0752

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

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

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

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

^[L]_[SEP] PROGRESSIVE With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

^[L]_[SEP] FRIENDLY With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly ^[L]_[SEP] advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These ^[L]_[SEP] are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

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

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