



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

March 2026

www.siarc.us

March is coming in like a fairly tame lion this morning. Light snow cover and about 24 degrees, with some rain forecasted for later. It was nice to see the lawn a bit this past week, but not looking forward to the regular mowing due in the coming weeks.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026**, and begins at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 County Road 48, Hopewell. All are welcome. The meeting is after the 6:30pm Laurel VE testing session. The program will be by Dave N2EZY and cover Casual Contesting. Perfect timing before our operating event at the end of March for the CQ WW SSB contest.

The club continues 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 hit net #1457 last week, so thank you to all who have checked in since March 2020. I hope you all can join us.

Past Events

The program for February was by Jay KC2TCM and covered the Mercury ARC Rectifier. Interesting topic about converting AC power to DC. Thanks Jay!!

Our quarterly breakfast was held on February 21 at Jack's Kitchen in Shortsville (Ray's was booked up) and we had 22 in attendance. I have received a few comments so any others are welcome so we can evaluate our next move (probably in June).

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?

If you have assisted in any public service events that I may not be aware of, please let me know so you can be acknowledged.

Upcoming Events

Mike N2MAK from West Henrietta, is organizing a **Five Two Simplex Challenge** for March and April. The goal is to call on 146.52 simplex for 52 days to make contacts and give simplex a shout out. You can do this from your car, walking with an HT or from home and it does not need to be in the Rochester area. Anywhere you are is fine. There are not any logs to keep, just get on the air. See his youtube channel for details. Be radio active!

The weekend of **March 28 and 29 is the CQ Worldwide SSB contest**. Since we cancelled the Winter Field Day in January, I would like to open up my garage in Victor for us to operate the CQ WW Contest. We can erect antennas and set up some HF stations on Saturday morning and operate into the evening and on Sunday morning. It will be a pot luck/dish to pass type of eating arrangement, and I will provide coffee and water. Everyone is welcome to attend. This will be discussed more at the March meeting.

The **Drumlins Hamfest** at the Palmyra VFW on SR 31, is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, and SIARC will have a table reserved inside for members to bring a couple of items to sell. Talk in will be on the WA2AAZ 146.745- (71.9) repeater. The doors open at 8am, but they can use volunteers to help with set up on Friday afternoon and to help during the event. Contact Rich KC2TNJ at hamfest@drumlinsarc.us for sign up.

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

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on March 11, 2026. The session will begin at 6:30pm. 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. Testing for 2026 will be on meeting nights in January, March, July, September and November. Thank you to Sabrina WD2STK and her team.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in North Carolina,

Oklahoma, Idaho, Wisconsin, Virginia, ARRL International DX SSB Contest, CQ WW SSB Contest, North American RTTY Sprint, and many others. See the March QST, pages 79 and 90, 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!

Thank you to all who participated in Public Service events that we supported through 2025.

Public Service events for 2026 (as I know of now) are:

April 25—Wild Water Derby, Shortsville

April 26—Seneca 7 relay running race around Seneca Lake

June 6—Tour De Cure ---RARA event

June 19—Shortsville Fire Department Carnival Parade

July 12—Musselman Ironman, Geneva

August 1—Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter races

August 8—Mammoth March, Letchworth Park—RARA event

August 8—MS Roc the Ride, Waterport, NY---RARA event

September 13—Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua

October 30 and 31—Pumpkin Patrol, Thruway bridges

I am looking for volunteers for these events, so please let me know if you can help.

The ARRL is supporting a couple of programs to highlight amateur radio clubs. We will be attempting to participate in these programs throughout 2026, to showcase the fun and helpful things we do in our area. One program is **Year of the Club (YOTC)**. See [Year of the Club](#) for more information. The other is the celebration of the Semiquincentennial with the **America 250 WAS** award. See [America250 WAS](#) for details. I will be looking for members to organize our effort so please contact me (kb2nci@gmail.com) to help.

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.

If you are interested in joining the local RACES or ARES group, please contact Steve WB2VMR. All hams are encouraged to participate.

The **next RACES meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 9am in the Safety Training Center. Steve announced that beginning in 2026, we will be holding the admin meetings on Thursdays, alternating with a 9am and 7pm start time to get as many members as possible a chance to attend.

RACES Training Several members of Ontario County RACES have been participating in training courses over the last 2-3 years with the OIEC (Office of Interoperability and Emergency Communications) part of NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) to obtain communication credentialing for New York State. This has involved training at the NYS Training Facility in Oriskany, NY. These training sessions last from 3 to 5 days and are taken on a volunteer basis. Upon completion of the course, the student must take and pass a course test and then complete a Student Position Task Book within three years. Upon successfully completion the student is issued State Credentials for the subject course completed.

Ontario County RACES Radio Officer and County ARES Emergency Coordinator, Steve, recently received AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications) credentials from the OIEC. AUXCOMM is the amateur radio interface to the NYS DHSES Communication Unit. Hopefully, we will have more certified communications personnel from Ontario County RACES over the next year.

RACES and ARES are always looking for more participation and the recent events in western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene, show that disasters can occur in unexpected locations. Training to Serve, Serving to Support!

I encourage all of you to check into our **weekly RACES/ARES nets**, which are on Sundays at 8pm (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 W20NT 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 585-430-9850. 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 7281khz LSB and interested hams (General class or higher) are always welcome to check in and get more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly RACES nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 7081.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. Forty meters has worked very well, so for the time being, the net will remain there. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try! NYS RACES is also doing testing on 60 meters. It is a great band for these regional communications, so all members should have that capability. For more information on RACES, go to [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service \(RACES\) | Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services](#)

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.

The following is a list of digital HF nets you can listen and check into. Thanks to Paul KD2DO for this information.

Here are the digital nets in our area that you can listen into and now join.

*** MID-ATLANTIC Net: @ 1000L Sunday morning on 7.068 MHz USB.

*** NJ NBEMS Net: @ 0900L Sunday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NH NBEMS Net: @ 0700L Saturday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NY NBEMS Net: @ 0800L Saturday morning on 3.583 MHz USB.

*** US East NBEMS: @ 1900L Wednesday evening on 3.536 MHz USB.

*** MIDTN Net: Tues, Thurs & Sat 1930L on 3.582.5 MHz USB.

and for a change of pace

Feld Hell 30m net, Wed 2000 ET on 10.1410, FSKH105

Feld Hell 40m net, Thu 2100 ET on 7.0890, FSKH105

Feld Hell 80m net, Fri 2200 ET on 3.5835, FSKH105

Be sure your TxID and RxID buttons are activated and green on FLDIGI, to follow the mode used.

There are others when you have tried these.

Odd and Ends

ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. I forwarded to the group, an email from the ARRL about sending a letter to your elected federal officials to get these bills. H.R. 1094 and S. 459, passed. Here is the link for more information about this important legislation to protect our amateur radio spectrum. The link also provides an easy way to send the requested letters so the league can give them to the officials. You do not need to be an ARRL member to participate in this, so if you have not already sent your letter, please do so today!! Thank you. [Current Legislation](#) Go to Send-A-Letter.org/HOA to complete the process.

A **new emergency and weather alert system** is now available for New Yorkers. Through the free 333111 system, you'll receive text alerts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services about severe weather, significant power outages and shelter locations in your area. To receive these alerts, text 333111 and the county you wish to receive the alerts for (do not add the word "county" or any spaces or punctuation). You can add more than one county. If you are already signed up for NY-ALERT, you are all set. They will be the same messages. If you no longer wish to receive these messages, text STOP to 333111.

Be sure to check your license expiration periodically. You can renew through the FCC starting 90 days before expiration. See this link for instructions. [SOMMA.indd](#) AND, it is important to keep your FCC registration postal and email address up to date. This will ensure that you receive correspondence from them promptly.

Remember that club dues need to be renewed in September. If you are not a Life member (only \$100), be sure to see Stan to keep current.

If you have items you would like to sell, let me know and I can post it in the Smoke Signal.

Doug KD2LGE has been working with a business, Apparel Printers Plus, 67 East Main St in Victor, to provide club apparel. They do a nice and quick job. Thanks, Doug, for setting this up.

There are lots of new hams in the area due to the great success of the local VE testing program. If you hear a new license (many are KE2xxx) be sure to call them and welcome them to the hobby.

Don't forget to add 146.520 simplex to your scan routine. It is a good frequency to find and help hams traveling through our area.

From the County Administrator's Newsletter and the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles:

DMV The Federal REAL ID deadline is now May 7, 2025. Though not mandatory, we encourage everyone to obtain a REAL ID compliant identification today! For more information please visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/federal-real-id>

A STAR in the upper right corner of your license indicates a REAL ID.

ARLB007 FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented.

Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The Public Notice can be found in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-219A1.pdf> .

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a

help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp>, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

NNNN

/EX From the ARRL Letter 3-22-2024.

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 2023 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 \(arrl.org\)](https://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator)

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has designated **14.300Mhz** 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.

During Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30), you can find some interesting traffic from the **Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org)** on 14.325Mhz days and 7.268Mhz nights, when a hurricane is within 300 miles of land. Hurricane Melissa saw several hours of the net being active and assisting the affected areas.

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 and Jay KC2TCM

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 January/February issue covers many topics, including articles on Repeaters, Deploying antennas for HF, ARRL Basic EMCOMM course and many others. It is available on the website with your ARRL membership. Your membership also 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://Upstate NY HAM Radio News & Information (upstateham.com)) with many repeater lists. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information on repeaters and public safety.

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 and 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 see them 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 (except meeting nights). 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 #1457 last week and have heard from hams in Wayne, Monroe, Yates, Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

146.820- (110.9) K2BWK
145.450- (110.9) W2ONT
146.745- (71.9) WA2AAZ
146.610- (110.9) W2ARM
7281 kHz LSB

Monday through Friday 8pm Health and Welfare Net
Sundays 8pm Ontario County RACES/ARES training net
Sundays 8:35pm Wayne County RACES net
Thursdays 7pm Monroe County ARES/RACES net
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
W2ONT 147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall
KD2HYJ D-Star 444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

President's Thoughts

Even though we received a bit of snow this morning, be assured that Spring and warmer weather is coming and with it PLENTY of ham radio options for activity. Operating for the CQ WW SSB contest on March 28, the Drumlins Hamfest is scheduled for April 18 in Palmyra, the Wild Water Derby in April 25, the Seneca 7 Relay Race on April 26 and more to follow. There is always lots of POTA activations and other contests to participate in. And of course, Field Day is the weekend of June 27 and 28 and once again we will be joining our neighbors from the Drumlins ARC at the Big M Game Club in Clifton Springs. So, be sure you have the opportunity to get on the air and have some fun.

I hope to see you all at the next club meeting on the 11th. And, remember to turn your clocks forward next weekend for Daylight Savings Time!!

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

73, Tom Sanders KB2NCI

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585-430-9850

Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

Training to Serve, Serving to Support

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

☐CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.☐

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

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

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

PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.