



Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

April 2021

www.siarc.us

It appears that April is going to come in a bit white. We have to believe that warm weather is coming soon, right?? I do, just not sure how soon. And Happy Easter!

Remember to stay 1 wavelength at 144 MHz apart and wear a mask when outside of your home around others and when you cannot be socially distant. You are protecting others around you and slowing the community spread. Even when you get fully vaccinated, this will still be the recommendation for a while. Stay safe.

We will be **meeting at the Safety Training Center** on County Road 48 on April 14 at 7:30pm. This will be our first face to face meeting since November and it will be good to see everyone. We will need to follow the county guidelines of Masks, Social Distancing and a limit of 25 in attendance. We will have two rooms, so there will be space to spread out. Steve WB2VMR will be doing our program which will be either on the Go-kits he has been working on or the Nano VNA (Vector Network Analyzer). Either will be fun and interesting. Thank you, Steve.

We continue to hold the Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (not on the 14th) so there is ample opportunity to check on your friends in a safe way. I hope you all can check in.

I want to inform you that our friend in Wayne County, Walt, W2EVU, lost his wife, Pat, in February. Our condolences go out to he and his family.

Past Events

The March meeting was cancelled due to virus concerns and was held on the 146.820 repeater. We had 18 in "attendance" and the minutes are posted on the website.

I have heard that some of us have been participating in the Parks on the Air and Last Man Standing events being held. Any reports?

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.

Upcoming Events

Our **next VE Session** is scheduled for May 12, 2021 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the County Human Resources Building, 3019 County Complex Drive, Canandaigua, which is just to the east from our usual location. Pre-registration is **REQUIRED** because of the corona virus guidelines. Contact Russ N2IZV at rcharris@msn.com if you would like to be on his list of examinees. Masks and social distancing are required. He will also need VEs.

At this time, I believe the **Wild Water Derby in Shortsville** will be held on Saturday, April 24, and we will be needed to assist. We will need 12 operators to do this event and I have heard from a few, but more will be needed. Contact me at kb2nci@arrrl.net to sign up.

ARRL Field Day will be held the last weekend of June on the 26th and 27th. We have reserved the Safety Training Center grounds for the weekend, but the decision has not been finalized for location or what type of event we will be enjoying. Discussions with the Drumlins ARC are ongoing so more details will be coming. The rules are similar to last year and allow for home stations to be more active. I will be asking for comments on Field Day in a separate email. The Board of Directors has voted to subsidize One shirt per member to the amount of \$5. I will be soliciting orders for Field Day shirts, etc. during April and will submit a single order for the club in early May. This is a good time to add on other Field Day articles and save the shipping cost (it is a flat rate for this size order). You can pay me upon pickup. Watch your email for order requests.

ARRL to Extend Field Day Rule Waivers from 2020, Add Class D and E Power Limit

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified [ARRL Field Day](#) rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services



Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 - 27.

"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021, Class D stations may work *all other* Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year,

however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

For Field Day 2021, an *aggregate* club score will be published -- just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The [ARRL Field Day](#) web page contains complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day [Facebook group](#). Read [an expanded version](#).

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Georgia, North Dakota, Michigan, Ontario, Florida, State Parks on the Air for Florida, Texas, North American SSB Sprint, ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB, and many others. See the April QST pages 75 and 86 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!

Celebrate World Amateur Radio Day 2021 on April 18

04/01/2021

Sunday, April 18, is World Amateur Radio Day (**WARD**). This year marks the 96th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**), founded at the 1925 International Radiotelegraph Conference in Paris. ARRL cofounder and first president, Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, was there, and today, ARRL is the International Secretariat of the IARU. ARRL has [resources](#) that members can use to celebrate WARD, including graphics for social media posts and radio club websites, as well as a printable flyer.

IARU has chosen "Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone" as the theme for WARD 2021. The theme acknowledges that during our physical distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, amateur radio stands out as a welcome respite for its variety of activities and opportunities.

Amateur radio experimenters were the first to discover that the HF spectrum was not the wasteland experts of that time considered it to be, but a resource that could support worldwide communication. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, amateur radio was “in grave danger of being pushed aside,” IARU history has noted, prompting the founding of the IARU. At the 1927 International Radiotelegraph Convention, amateur radio gained allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Over the years, the IARU has worked to give all radio amateurs new bands at 136 kHz, 472 kHz, 5 MHz, 10 MHz, 18 MHz, 24 MHz, and 50 MHz, and a regional European allocation at 70 MHz, and IARU defends those allocations.

The 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925 have grown to include more than 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and North Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of amateur radio.

On World Amateur Radio Day, all radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to share global goodwill with other amateurs. ARRL encourages members to promote the value of amateur radio to family and friends, and in their communities. Many volunteer ARRL Public Information Officers and Public Information Coordinators throughout the US use the time leading up to WARD as an opportunity to reach out to the media to share information about amateur radio.

“The amateur radio community has a great story to tell on the occasion of World Amateur Radio Day,” ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. “While the pandemic has kept many of us at home, radio amateurs have still been able to get on the air.” In June 2020, ARRL Field Day, held annually as amateur radio’s largest on-the-air operating event and demonstration, included nearly 19,000 participants making more than 1.8 million radio contacts in a single weekend.

“Over the last year, many ARRL-affiliated radio clubs and in-person ham radio events have moved their group activities online. This has helped to keep radio amateurs active and involved in the common pursuit of skill, service, and discovery in radio communication and radio technology,” Inderbitzen added.

Coincidentally, the SSB running of the [ARRL Rookie Roundup](#) falls on WARD (1800 – 2359 UTC). The event is aimed at hams licensed for 3 years or less. Take the opportunity to wish participants “Happy World Amateur Radio Day 2021” on the air.

Some WARD 2021 Activities around the Globe

- **Bahrain:** The Amateur Radio Society of Bahrain will operate A91WARD during April 14 – 18, 2021, using SSB, FT8, and DMR modes.
- **Canada:** Radio Amateurs of Canada are sponsoring a “[Get on the Air on World Amateur Radio Day](#)” special event.
- **Germany:** The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club is operating DA21WARD for WARD, from April 18 through June 30. QSL to DK5ON.
- **New Jersey:** The Fair Lawn (New Jersey) Amateur Radio Club will operate club station W2NPT on CW and phone throughout the day on April 18. In support of the theme of this year’s event, the operators will share information about the Health & Welfare Net that the club is running during the pandemic.
- **Alabama:** The Disaster Communication Action Team will operate club station KD1CAT on April 18, in support of WARD. Operation will be on all HF bands.
- **VOIP/ECHOLINK** *ROC-HAM* Conference node #531091 April 18 – 19, 13:00 – 05:00 UTC (9 AM EDT – 1 AM EDT) via VOIP/ECHOLINK *ROC-HAM* Conference node #531091/Allstar #2585. W2JLD, VO1UKZ, GW8SZL, and 2W0KYH will be net controllers. All stations from around the world are encouraged to check in. A QSL card will be available via SASE.

RACES and ARES

Plans are forming to be able to link the 442.200 repeater on Gannett Hill with the 146.820 Club repeater at the VA. If needed, this would allow for hand held coverage in the cities of Canandaigua and Geneva to cover the county. More details will be forthcoming this summer.

From the County Administrators Newsletter-

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (RACES) The Ontario County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service is always looking for more volunteers and encourages all persons with an interest in public service and radio to get involved. An FCC license is required, but many local groups offer free testing and training, and person-to-person mentoring can be arranged. Morse code is no longer part of the examination process and the initial license exam focuses primarily on safety and regulations. Help and information can be found at <https://www.co.ontario.ny.us/259/RACES>, <http://www.siarc.us/>, <https://www.rochesterham.org/>, and the national organization's site, <http://www.arrrl.org/what-is-ham-radio>. Ontario County RACES provides communications support to County operations in the event of disaster or emergency situations, and maintains fixed stations in Hopewell and Geneva, with ancillary facilities on Gannett Hill in South Bristol. Volunteers undergo a background check, and appointments to the service are made by the Director of Emergency Management.

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, but we will be discontinuing the use of FLMSG for our nets and drills, due to the difficulty of keeping everyone on the same version. It appears that the use of different versions of FLMSG makes receiving the transmission very spotty. If you have ANY questions, feel free to contact me at kb2nci@arrrl.net or 585-924-0752 or Scott N2UMH at ldfask@yahoo.com. 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 get some more training on HF net operations. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and 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

Need a reference for coax loss?? See the SIARC website Links tab for concise tables on the subject. Thanks to Todd W2ODD for sending it to me.

I wanted to inform all of you that there has begun a 10 meter net on Saturday nights at 7:30pm. The frequency is 28.405MHz USB and all are welcome. The net control is Eric, K2ENF, in Gates, NY and this the perfect place for technicians to get some HF experience and for all to use a band that can give some very interesting propagation.

A new benefit of ARRL membership:

ARRL Learning Network

Overview: ARRL's Learning Network is a webinar series to help introduce members to the variety of activities and opportunities enjoyed by radio amateurs. These live presentations will be given by member-volunteers, for all members. Like hamfest forums and radio club presentations, the webinars are intended to help participants get more active, involved, and engaged in amateur radio. Presentations are 30-minutes each to accommodate attendee's busy schedules, followed by a 15-minute period for questions-and-answers. For additional information contact ARRL's [Lifelong Learning](#) department.

- **Register now!** ARRL members may register for upcoming presentations and view previously recorded webinars by [clicking here](#).

Webinar Schedule

The Art and Science of Operating Ultra-Portable

Presented by Mike Molina, KN6EZE

Ultra-portable operation or being able to carry your radio over distances e.g., in a backpack, is quickly growing in popularity. Whether for SOTA, POTA, backcountry survival, or just spending time in nature, learning how to operate ultra-portable is a fun and rewarding experience. In this presentation, Mike KN6EZE, will cover the basics of ultra-portable operating for both the new and experienced ham operator.

Sponsored by Icom

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 @ 8 pm EDT (0000 UTC on Wednesday, April 7)

Finding and Fixing RFI

Presented by Paul Cianciolo, W1VLF

RFI (Radio Frequency Interference) has been a problem for Ham radio operators and SWL's (Shortwave listeners) since the radio hobby began. Both from natural sources (QRN) and manmade sources (QRM). Things have changed in the last 20 years with the advent of widespread solar power, LED lighting, grow lights, digital computing devices etc. The technology boom has enhanced our daily lives, but at what price? Learn all about

finding and fixing RFI in today's world.

Sponsored by Icom

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 @ 1 pm EDT (1700 UTC)

HF Noise Mitigation

Presented by ARRL Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO

An educational seminar to help both new and experienced amateurs who are on HF and finding themselves plagued with noise. We'll learn what "noise" is, about the various noise sources, and how to mitigate those noises using a variety of techniques.

Sponsored by Icom

Thursday April 22, 2021 @ 3:30 pm EDT (1930 UTC)

W1AW Antennas

Presented by W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q

Details coming soon.

Sponsored by Icom

TBA (coming soon)

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 March/April issue covers many topics, including Our Active Sun, Parks on the Air, a Copper Tape Antenna for 2 meters and many others. It is available on the website and you may choose to receive the print version or QST with your membership.

NEW REPEATERS:

Dave W2ACC reports that the KD2NOL 146.985- (82.5) repeater is up and running in Dundee and gives very good coverage for Seneca County. This is the former frequency for the N2LSJ repeater in Penn Yan.

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. 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! While we are not having meetings, you can 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 and renewal 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 #271 and have covered a range of topics and have heard from new hams in Yates and Seneca Counties.

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

As you can see, ham activities are opening up and the fun outside is gearing up. I for one am looking forward to it all and hope to participate as much as I can. I don't think there will be very many public service events happening (most are still going virtual for 2021) but with Field Day, Parks on the Air (one ham I talked to is going to try Porches on the Air, sound fun!) and just the warmer weather, there should be ample opportunity to practice our craft and have some fun. Put on your thinking cap and try a new portable dipole or that new QRP rig you purchased. The Xiegu G90 sounds like a neat little radio that can get you some surprising results, even at 20 watts.

So, stay tuned to the repeaters, HF, SIARC and ARRL websites and jump into the fray. We are entering Sunspot Cycle 25 and it is looking promising for increased DX contacts.

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^{[1][2]} Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^{[1][2]} The Radio^{[1][2]} Amateur is:

^{[1][2]}CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.^{[1][2]}

LOYAL Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other ^{[1][2]}amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, ^{[1][2]}through which Amateur Radio in the United States is ^{[1][2]}represented nationally and internationally.^{[1][2]}

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 ^{[1][2]}advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These ^{[1][2]}are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

^{[1][2]}BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to ^{[1][2]}family, job, school or community.^{[1][2]}

PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and ^{[1][2]}community.