



Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

July 2023

www.siarc.us

July is starting the way June mostly was—rainy! If it changes, we may have a very dry stretch. No happy medium, I guess.

Our **next meeting** will be on Wednesday, July 14, 2023 at the Ontario County Safety Training Center on County Road 48, Canandaigua, and begins at 7:30pm. The meeting follows the Laurel VE Testing session at 6:30pm. We will try the annual “Show Off Your Mobile or Portable Station” in the parking lot again, then move inside. Let’s pray for a nice evening. All are welcome to attend.

We usually do not have a meeting in August, but Steve WB2VMR has secured a tour of the Ontario County 911 Center, 74 Ontario St in Canandaigua for Wednesday August 9. We will need to meet at the 911 center at 6:45pm as we ALL have to enter the building as one group at 7pm sharp. Sign up is not necessary, just don’t be late!!

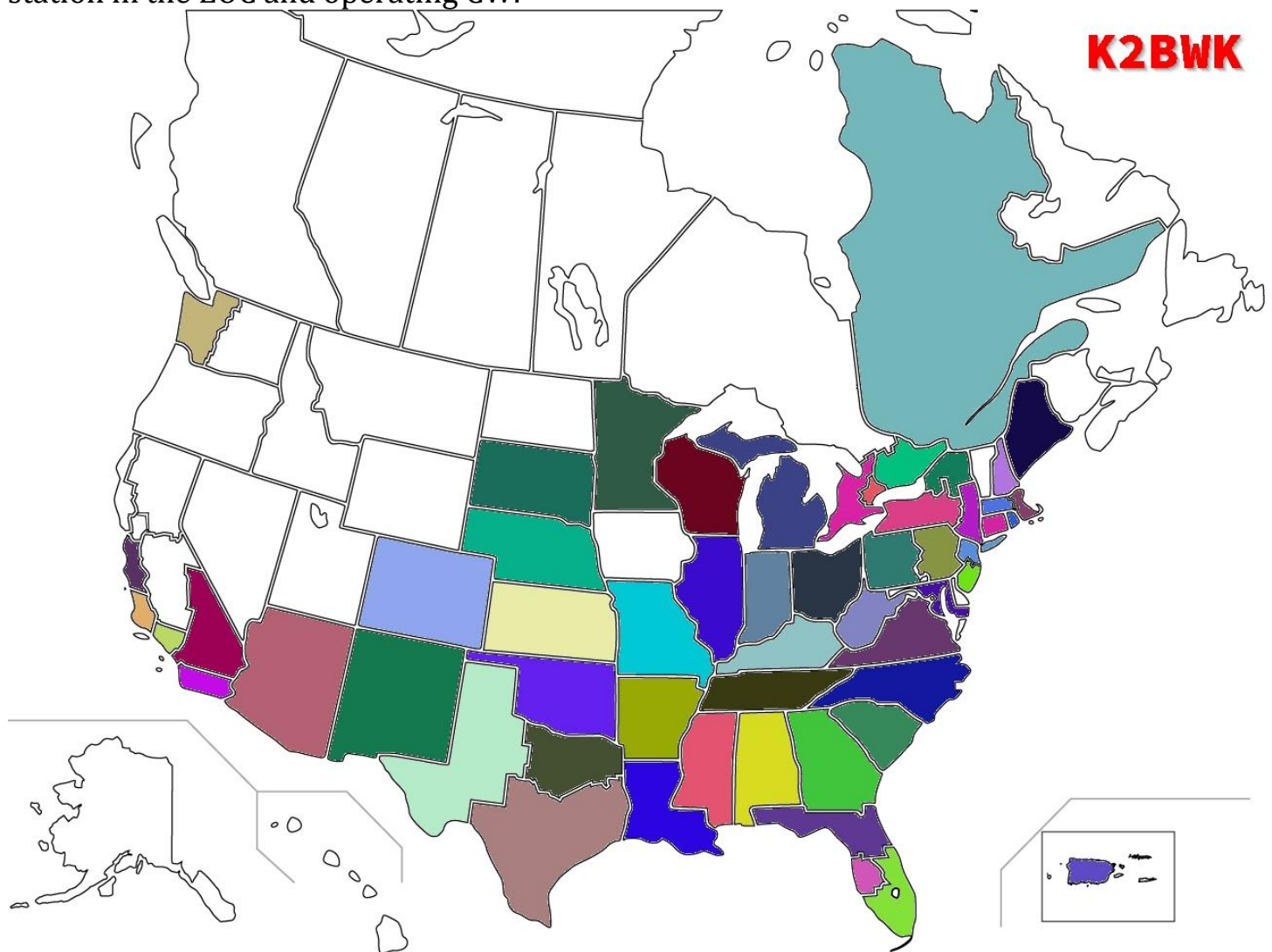
We continue to hold the Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, (except club meeting nights) so there is ample opportunity to catch up with your friends. We just had net #827 last week. Thank you to all who have checked in over the last 3+ years. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The program for the June meeting was to have been the parking lot show and tell, but due to the rainy weather, we just went inside and talked about Field Day and other important topics.

We assisted the Shortsville Fire Department for their Carnival Parade on June 16 and 9 of us battled the rain almost up to the start of it. We have helped for a few years with this event that highlights fire companies from the local area. There were lots of red trucks and brave folks showing off their stuff. Thanks to WB2VMR, KD2LGE, W2WES, KD2DNO, KD2PER, W2LVP, WB2RRE, W2ODD and KB2NCI for volunteering.

Field Day 2023 was another fun event that was held at the Safety Training Center with our friends from the Drumlins ARC. We made 192 contacts with 40 of the possible 71 sections in the US and Canada. Not bad for a small operation that only operates about 12 of the 24 hours. See below some pictures of the event. Near the end is Dave's KB2KBY station in the EOC and operating CW.















The last picture shows tear down, “And then there was ONE”. Pat was going for those last contacts.

Thanks to everyone for a great Field Day weekend. See you in 2024!

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?

This past Saturday, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the club. A gathering was held at my home in Victor and the 12 of us who attended had a great time telling stories and tales of our lives as hams. We ate very well, stayed mostly dry and even made a few contacts. It was great to spend the time with many of my ham family. See some pictures below.









Upcoming Events

The Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter 5 and 20k races will be held on Saturday, August 5 and I could use a few more operators to help with course safety communications. If you have not let me know and would like to help, please do so and I will add you to my list.

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** is scheduled for July 12, 2023 at 6:30. The testing will be held at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. 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.siacr.us under Radio Amateur Exams for complete information. Thanks to Sabrina and her team for keeping this worthwhile project up and running. We are one of the few groups to offer this service.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), MARAC US Counties QSO party, CQ Worldwide VHF contest, IARU HF World Championship, North American RTTY QSO Party, and many others. See the July QST pages 78 and 96 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 AWA Annual Conference, Henrietta—August 26 to 30—see www.antiquewireless.org for details.

The ARRL is sponsoring a yearlong event, **Volunteers on the Air**. It recognizes the many volunteers around the country that keep the ARRL and amateur radio growing and healthy. Check out the article in the On the Air January/February issue or www.arrl.org for details.

Hamfests in the Future:

RAGS Hamfest, Camillus—July 8
Batavia Hamfest, Alexander—July 15
Ithaca Hamfest, Trumansburg—August 5
Roc City Hamfest, Macedon—August 26
Lancaster Hamfest, Transit Road, Lockport—September 9
ARAST (Elmira) Hamfest, Horseheads—September 30

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

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.

In July we will have a Training Session on Saturday the 15th at 9am and an Admin Meeting on Thursday the 20th at 9am. Both will be in the Ontario County Safety Training Center. All RACES members are welcome to attend.

Public Service Events for 2023 include:

- Musselman Ironman, Geneva and Seneca County, July 9—help will be needed. See Tom KB2NCI
- Tour de Cure Diabetes Event, Webster—July 22. See www.rochesterham.org, Public Service tab to sign up
- Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter, August 5—help will be needed. See Tom KB2NCI
- MS ROC Great Lakes Experience, Waterport, NY—August 12—help will be needed.
- Wilmot Cancer Institute Wilmot Breakaway Ride--- September 30 (the 75 mile course will come down as far as Canandaigua and Bloomfield after beginning in Henrietta—contact Mike KC2NM at mikemoore@ieee.org if you are interested in volunteering.
- Pumpkin Patrol, NYS Thruway overpasses, October 30 and 31—help will be needed. See Dave KB2KBY

Mark your calendars to help out.

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@arrl.net 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 it as current as possible.

-----NEW-----

Starting March 26, we will be holding a practice session in Sending FLDIGI on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm before the 8pm Net. These sessions will also be on the W2ONT 145.450- (110.9) repeater. These are to give you practice at sending a message digitally. As those that participated can tell you, Murphy likes to visit your station during this time. Please try to join us. The NCS for the evening will start these up at 7:30pm.

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.

The FCC is considering a **change to the amateur allocation in the 60m band**. Currently we have 5 channels with max power of 100 watts ERP and it is proposed to change to 15khz of continuous bandwidth with 9 (yes, nine) watts ERP. Complete information can be found at [ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band](#)

Member Profile and Picture

After running my picture for the 800th Health and Welfare net, Bill W2LVP suggested that we ask as many of us that want to participate, to show a picture of their station and a little about their ham radio experience. So, for July, Bill has submitted his. I will be looking for volunteers for August and beyond. Again, voluntary only! Thanks, Bill.



SIARC MEMBER
BILL BURLINGAME - W2LVP

I was first introduced to amateur radio through a friend (K2EVJ) in 1959. After several visits to his “shack” I passed my novice license (WV2LVP) and went on the air using CW (5 wpm). In those days you had to upgrade within a year or lose your license. I traveled via bus to Rochester Museum where the FCC Buffalo Office sent a representative to give amateur radio tests, which consisted of both radio theory plus receiving and sending at 13 wpm. I passed and became WA2LVP. In those days you could “home brew” just about anything you needed as a ham, which I did. I eventually became W2LVP and retain that call today.

My interests in the beginning were VHF, UHF and up. While in high school a friend (WV2RKZ) and I successfully designed and built a 10Gc transmitter and receiver using a WWII 2K25 klystron. As you may have guessed I like to build things, both then and today, but it has become harder with SMT and old eyes.

Fast forward to today, my ham radio interest is still building electronic devices, operating CW, and learning about new digital techniques along with trying to keep up with rapidly changing technology. My first venture into the digital world was using MT63 with the club, which piqued my interest in other digital modes.

I enjoy meeting members of SIARC and hearing about their amateur radio exploits.

Hopefully, I will be able to contribute towards the success of the club and its members for the foreseeable future.

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Odd and Ends

The 13 Colonies Special Event runs from July 1 to July 7, 2023. See [The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event](#) for details on this fun event.

While the Sanders were traveling through Nebraska in May, we came across this highway sign (below), appropriate for hams.



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

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 May/June issue covers many topics, including articles on Radio Technology, Loop Antenna Project, CERT Volunteers 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. And for scanner listeners, go to www.radioreference.com for nationwide information.

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 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 #827 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

As you can tell by the length of the newsletter, there has been a lot going on this past month or so. And I don't think it will slow down much for the foreseeable future. That is good, as sitting around is not good for your health or disposition. So, get out there and explore the interests you have and learn from as many folks as you can. There are many events and hamfests going on so there is lots of opportunity to enjoy the hobby and where we live. The club is a great resource for information to help you expand yourself, so please take advantage of all of us.

Happy Independence Day!!

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

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

^[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]

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

^[SEP] 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 ^[L]_{SEP}community.