Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953

Smoke Signal

July 2024 www.siarc.us

Field Day was fun and I hope everyone had a chance to get on the air. More later.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 7:30pm at the Safety Training Center, 2914 CR 48, Canandaigua. All are welcome. Our program is the Annual Parking Lot Show and Tell Mobile/Portable. We will begin the meeting outside and go inside around 8pm. Here is a chance to show off your mobile or portable operation. I hope to see you all there and I look forward to seeing some interesting set ups! There is also Laurel VE testing on the 10th beginning 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 hit net #1060 last Friday so thank you to all who have checked in over the last 4 years. I hope you all can check in.

We will NOT have a meeting in August. The September 11 meeting will include Election of Officers. Please consider running for any of the offices of the club.

Past Events

The program in June was a video on "Who Owns the Frequency?". Very interesting and good food for thought.

Several of us assisted with the Tour De Cure on June 8, which was based out of the FLCC campus and covered Ontario County. It was a bit smaller event, rider wise, but was very successful with money raised at this point at $400,000 for diabetes research. Our radio contribution in providing course safety was greatly appreciated. I hope more of us will consider volunteering in 2025. Helping out from our group was WB2VMR, WB2GGM, W2ODD, KD2DNO, KD2TWM, KB2FSB, KA1CNF and KB2NCI.

The next Friday evening, 7 of us assisted the Shortsville Firemen with their Parade. Our contribution is to help the entrants find their spot and report any issues along the way. It was a beautiful evening and we are happy to help out. We used our RACES issued UHF HTs on simplex and they work very well. Hams helping out were WB2VMR, WB2RRE, WA2SSJ, KE2CXQ, W2LVP, W2ODD and KB2NCI.

ARRL Field Day was June 22 and 23 and we had a very nice showing for breakfast and set up that warm Saturday morning. The joint event with Drumlins ARC was held at the Big M Game Club in Clifton Springs. It was a very nice facility for us to use with a nice covered pavilion and large field for antenna installation. The band conditions were not the greatest but we had fun. Then the storm blew through around 5:30 and between the monsoon rain and wind, we shut things down for about an hour. Operations were a little scaled back and shut down around 11pm. By the time I got back to the site at 7am, all that was left was to take down the antennas. Many thanks to Rich KC2TNJ, Sabrina WD2STK and Jay KC2TCM for their efforts before and during the weekend. See you all in 2025.

ARRL FIELD DAY 2024
STAFF
TRACER

I'm a
HAM RADIO
GRANDPA
just like a
NORMAL GRANDPA
except radio active

ARRL FIELD DAY 2024

STAFF
TRACER

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

Our next breakfast will be in August and will be announced later in July.

We are supporting the Musselman/Ironman Triathlon out of Geneva on Sunday, July 14. We could use a few more operators to fully cover the event, so if anyone is interested in helping out and you have not contacted me, please do so. kb2nci@gmail.com .

We are also supporting the Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter 5 & 20K races on Saturday August 3. Again, please contact me if you can help out. kb2nci@gmail.com .

And finally, we are supporting the Finger Lakes Triathlon out of Canandaigua, on Sunday September 8. Please let me know if you can assist for any of these. kb2nci@gmail.com .

Upcoming Hamfests are:

Ithaca Hamfest, Trumansburg, NY, August 3
Keuka Lake ARA Hamfest, Howard, NY, August 17
Roc City Hamfest, Macedon, NY, August 24
Lancaster, NY, Hamfest September 7
Elmira Hamfest, Horseheads, NY, September 28

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

The **next Laurel VE Testing Session** will be on July 10, 2024. 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.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), QSO parties in Alabama, IARU HF World Championship, North American QSO Party RTTY, lots of Parks on the Air stations, and many others. See the July QST pages 81 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!

I continue to solicit operators for the 2024 public service events and I look forward to hearing from and working with all of you. If you don't get an email from me and want to help, please contact me directly. (kb2nci@gmail.com)

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

Musselman Ironman Triathlon, Geneva and Seneca County, July 14-volunteer at Register to volunteer with IRONMAN via VolunteerLocal
Phelps Sauerkraut Festival Krauter 5 & 20K races, Phelps, August 3
Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua, September 8
Wineglass Marathon, Steuben County, October 6
Pumpkin Patrol, Thruway Bridges, 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.

Learn It, Build It, Fix It (LIBIFI) Classes are opportunities for adults to learn about vacuum tube technology while building and/or repairing their equipment. For over half a decade, the AWA Educational Institute has been the premier source of hands-on technical education designed for Do It Yourself (DIY) electronics enthusiasts.

2024 AWA LearnitBuilditFixit Classes

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.

Steve WB2VMR attended the Communications Leader (Comm-L) training at the State Training Facility in Oriskany last week. It was a several day event and I think after completing this class, he has taken almost all that pertain to his role as Radio Officer/Emergency Coordinator for Ontario County. Thanks, Steve, for all of your time and effort in this arena.

The next RACES meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25, at 7pm at the Safety Training Center. All interested amateurs are welcome to attend.

Steve WB2VMR held an organizational ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) meeting in May. All interested parties should have attended. If you would like to join, contact Steve at sbenton2@rochester.rr.com Stay tuned for further information.

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 7281khz LSB and members are always welcome to check in and get more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 7081.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. These are the frequencies for the summer months. We will switch back to 80m during the winter. 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.

Odd and Ends

The Roc City Net Hamfest will be Saturday, August 24, 2024, at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Macedon. See http://roccitynethamfest.com for details.

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.

MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

04/26/2024
Updated 4:26:24 8:00 pm EDT with additional statement from Martin F. Jue, K5FLU.
MFJ Enterprises, Inc founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.

In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.
I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.
Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than $10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have "a lot of stock on hand." They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years. He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members, and loyal *QST* readers:
"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ.
MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"

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.

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 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)

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 hurricane season, you can find some interesting traffic from the **Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org)** on 14.325Mhz days and 7.268Mhz nights.

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 May/June issue covers many topics, including articles on USB Basics, Six Ways Field Day can Prepare you for Emergency Communications, Ladder Safety, 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) 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 **#1060** 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
146.745- (71.9) WA2AAZ	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
W2ONT	147.090+ (110.9) Geneva City Hall

KD2HVC D-Star 444.300+ Stanley
KD2HYJ D-Star 444.500 (no offset) Victor hot spot—very local coverage for now

President's Thoughts

Field Day has come and gone and 2024 is behind us. Our joint event with the Drumlins club was success, even though the weather cut some of the operating time short. We once again worked with many members of both clubs to put up emergency stations, running on generator power and able to work stations across the country on CW, voice and digital modes. We erected a tri band beam antenna on the Drumlins military mast and several dipoles to cover many of the HF bands. And we ate well. That is always a plus. The facility at the Big M Game Club worked out very well so it is keeper for possible use in the future. I encourage all interested persons to attend next year and become involved with the event.
There are still several activities in the next few months that will need volunteers so I hope you can participate in many of them. Have a great summer!!

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@gmail.com
585-924-0752
Ham Radio: Service, Science, Skill

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.