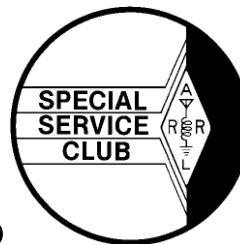




Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club

Since October 7, 1953



Smoke Signal

December 2020

www.siarc.us

Welcome to December and the last month of what has been a weird and very unfortunate year. I hope you all had a nice and safe Thanksgiving. I trust that 2021 will be better.

Remember to stay 1 wavelength at 144 MHz apart and wear a mask when outside around others and when you cannot social distance. You are protecting others around you and slowing the community spread.

The meeting for December 9 has been CANCELLED due to virus concerns. I polled the board and with the increasing numbers of virus cases in the area, fewer members wanting to attend and taking the average age of our membership into consideration, it was agreed to not meet in person in December. We will evaluate the January meeting later this month. At this time, the January VE testing is still scheduled, but that may change.

We continue to hold the Health and Welfare net on the K2BWK 146.820- (110.9) repeater at 8pm, Monday through Friday, so there is ample opportunity to check on your friends in a safe way. I hope you all can check in.

Past Events

The November program was an ARRL webinar on Station Grounding by Ward Silver N0AX. It is part of an ongoing series of the ARRL Learning Network. You can find the series by clicking on the Webinar tab in the middle of the ARRL.org website. Check it out!!

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 January 13, 2021 at 6:30. 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.

Upcoming Contests and Special Events this month include: Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (Tuesday evenings of the month), ARRL 160 meter CW contest, ARRL 10 meter Phone and CW contest, International Naval Contest, Skywarn Recognition Day, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, and many others. See the December QST pages 63 and 82 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!

Winter Field Day is coming up on January 30 and 31. Anybody planning on operating??

Our January 2021 meeting will be the annual Flea Market for the club. Start getting your things together to sell or swap! This is still a go at this time, but more information will follow in by early January.

RACES and ARES

From the County Administrators Newsletter for November (thank you to WA2SSJ for submitting):

RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service): Twenty members of the Ontario and Wayne Counties RACES groups participated in the 44th annual Pumpkin Patrol across New York State. Coordinated by New York State Police on October 30 and 31 by positioning on 8 bridges that cross the Thruway in Ontario County. Their presence was to deter vandalism from 8pm to midnight during the Halloween time period. Net operations on Friday were directed by an operator at his home station in Farmington and

from the Ontario County Emergency Management Office RACES station on Saturday. There were no incidents during the operation.

We have begun small group training sessions with the RACES group to increase our familiarity with all of the equipment and resources at our disposal. These are voluntary and will be occurring on an ad hoc basis. When you are invited to participate, I hope you will avail yourself of this opportunity. This is another good reason to keep your contact information up to date.

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, your 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@arrl.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.

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

A new benefit of ARRL membership:

Schedule of Upcoming Webinars

Welcome to ARRL's Learning Network! Members should use the registration links below to save your seat in an upcoming webinar. This schedule is subject to change and unintended cancellations. Do you have questions? Email ARRL [Lifelong Learning](#). Have an interesting topic you want to share? Submit your presentation idea through our [Call for Speakers form](#).

Need help? Before the webinar we encourage you to review the [system requirements](#) and [check your computer system](#) to ensure the best viewing experience. For technical assistance before or during the session please visit [GoToWebinar online support](#) or call toll-free 833-851-8340 in the U.S.

Recordings: Presentations are recorded for later viewing (barring any unforeseen technical difficulties). See the list of [previously recorded webinars](#)

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

Amateur Radio's Role at the Boston Marathon Bombing

Steve Schwarm, W3EVE

Amateur radio has played a significant role in public service communications for the Boston Marathon for several decades. That role was put to the test in 2013 when two bombs were exploded near the finish line. This presentation will describe the role that ham radio played at the Marathon and how that role changed due to the bombing.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 10 AM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)

[Register Now >](#)

Learn and Have Fun with Morse Code

Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE and Jim Crites, W6JIM

Morse code or "CW" is a popular ham radio operating mode. Learning CW does not have to be an arduous or lonely experience. Learn, practice, and enjoy CW with the methods used by the Long Island CW Club.

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 5 PM PST / 8 PM EST (0100 UTC on Friday, December 18)

[Register Now >](#)

The ARRL **Learning Network** webinar series was introduced as a new membership benefit in July. Presentations are by members, for members, as part of ARRL's Lifelong Learning initiative. Topics cover three primary interest areas among radio amateurs, including electronics and technology, personal communications and operating, and emergency communications and public service.

All webinars are recorded, so members and radio clubs can view previous presentations. **Join** ARRL to take advantage of this new member benefit.

Please congratulate the following amateurs from the November testing when you hear them on the air:

Mike KD2UON, technician to General

Jon KD2UZW, Technician

Jed KD2UEZ, technician to General

Brian KD2UZX, Technician

Joseph KD2UZH, Technician

Conrad KD2TRK, technician to General

Chuck KD2LMK, technician to General

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 Skywarn, Antennas 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!

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. cancelling 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, SIARC has been hosting a Health and Welfare net on the 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.

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 VA Hospital
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

Yes, 2021 has been an unusual one for all of mankind. I believe that following the guidelines set by the medical community and with a vaccine used by most of the population, we will get back to a very similar state of normal life. As history tells us, life is constantly changing and so it will go with this virus. We are a resilient species and will find a way to get through this. It kind of follows with our hobby as well. What was the normal way to communicate 50 years ago, has become part of an ever increasing number of modes to choose from and use. CW gave way to AM and then SSB and FM was added and then came the plethora of digital modes (too numerous to mention). But, hams have always (for the most part) embraced these new modes, experimented with and improved them, and so it goes today. It has been a fun ride and the main idea I feel is to try them and find those that fit your needs and wants. It is a wide open hobby and no one can tell you what works best for you. It is kind of like antennas; the best one is the one that works for

you! Wow, so heady. Well, anyway, find what “floats your boat” and go out there and have fun.

It has been fun being part of so many of your lives the past 12 months and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Best Wishes to you and your family for a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

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] Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)^[2]The Radio^[3] Amateur is:

^[4]CONSIDERATE Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.^[5]

^[6]LOYAL Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other^[7] amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League,^[8] through which Amateur Radio in the United States is^[9] represented nationally and internationally.^[10]

^[11]PROGRESSIVE With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

^[12]FRIENDLY With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly^[13] advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These^[14] are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

^[15]BALANCED Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to^[16] family, job, school or community.^[17]

^[18]PATRIOTIC With station and skill always ready for service to country and^[19] community.