

# SARA NEWS

**SCHENECTADY AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"SERVICE THROUGH  
AMATEUR RADIO"**

**FOUNDED 1930**

**K2AE REPEATERS**

<http://www.k2ae.org/>

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June, 2005

SARA General Meeting, April 4th, 2005 at 7:30PM, Niskayuna High School New Cafeteria

## **Annual Business Meeting**

*Major Bryan Stratton tries his fist on the straight key*

This month will be the Annual Business Meeting and will include the election of 2005-2006 SARA Officers. There will also be some exhibits of SARA Club history from the 75th Anniversary. There will be a discussion of upcoming Field Day operations on the weekend of June 25th. This will be the last meeting before field day so bring your questions for Jay and be prepared to volunteer for field day activities.

## **SARA's 75th Anniversary Dinner, a Great Success**

*N2FF Presents a certificate to SARA, received by President Ramsay Seielstad KC2GMW*



*Photo courtesy of Jay Freud*

The 75th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration was held May 2, 2005 at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia. It was attended by 85 SARA members and guests. SARA President Ramsay Seielstad accepted a special proclamation from Mayor Bryan Stratton of the City of Schenectady honoring SARA's 75th Anniversary.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon N2FF also presented a certificate from the ARRL, he noted that SARA became an ARRL affiliated club about a year after it was formed and will be receiving further recognition of that event next year.

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## Board Meeting

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association  
Board Meeting April 28, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President, Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW, at 7:03 PM in lab room N106 just outside the W2UC shack on the Union College Campus.

**Attendees:** President, Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW  
Vice-President, Dan Whelan, N2UD  
Treasurer, George Williams, W2CSN  
Secretary, Tim Long, W2UI  
Director, Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR  
Director, Carl Lester, K2YR  
Director, Paul Siemers, WY2F  
Director, Dennis Hudson, N2LBT  
Member, Rudy Dehn, W2JVF  
Member, Raleigh Keeter, K2RI  
Member, Ken Clikeman, AA2CW  
Member, Jay Freud, K2QNU

**Minutes:** Paul Siemers, WY2F, made a motion to accept the minutes as published in SARA News. George Williams, W2CSN, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** George Williams, W2CSN, presented the Treasurer's Report. Tim Long, W2UI, made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Paul Siemers, WY2F, and it passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Tim Long, W2UI, reported that, since the last Board Meeting, we had received the Fleet bank statement, the Verizon statement, several dues renewals, several ticket sales, 12 returns from our mailing for bad addresses, a notice that our PO Box fee was due, emails regarding Field Day, and an email that a test session would be held on 5/10/05.

**New Members:** None.

**Membership:** No Report.

**Public Service:** Raleigh Keeter, K2RI, reported that the Crop Walk would be on 5/1, the Niskaday Parade would be held on 5/21 and the Scotia Memorial Day Parade would be on 5/25. Raleigh reviewed plans for the 75th Anniversary Special Event.

**Programs:** Dan Whelan, N2UD, announced that the May meeting would be the 75th Anniversary Dinner at the Glen Sanders Mansion and that the June meeting would be the annual business meeting.

**Public Relations:** No chairman. No report.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter was issued on time.

**RFI:** Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, reported that no complaints nor requests for assistance had been received.

**Repeater Committee:** No report

**VE Sessions:** The team plans to conduct a test session on 5/10/05.

**Anniversary Committee:** George Williams, W2CSN, reported that current ticket sales are 83. Dan Whelan, N2UD, summarized the accommodations and arrangements that had been made. Last minute details were discussed.

**Old Business:** Nominating Committee – The Board discussed more possible candidates for planned open positions. Many candidates are happily stepping forward and agreeing to serve. The Secretary's position is still vacant. If you are interested in a Board Position, contact Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW.

**Field Day –** Plans were discussed. This year's Field Day Chairman is Jay Freud, K2QNU. Paul reported that the field, tables, and chairs had been formally requested from the fire house. Rob Fox has agreed to be in charge of food. Joe Brown will head up the GOTA station and public relations. Tim Long will request the Schenectady County Command Center for the GOTA Station. Tim will also develop the layout, antenna plan and do logs. Dennis Hudson will be in charge of computers. George will contract for the porta-potti and reminded everyone that our budget for Field Day was \$750. Tim Long, W2UI, made a motion to purchase 600 feet of RG-213/U cable from Cable Xperts. The current price is 38 cents per foot. The motion was seconded by Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, and it passed unanimously. Mike Adams will tow the generator, Tim will tow the box trailer, and Dennis will tow the tower trailer.

**New Business:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Long, W2UI, Secretary

## Amateur Radio Populations

Callsign totals for NY and selected states as of May 17, 2005. About one out of every 415 people in the US is a ham.

State	Novice	Tech.	Tech+	General	Adv.	Extra	Total
NY	2351	11743	2701	6952	3821	4984	32552
CA	4886	49681	8611	17789	10673	12382	104022
CT	634	2793	678	1913	1049	1445	8512
FL	2338	13579	3384	10710	6212	6735	42958
MA	885	4788	1280	3392	1844	2633	14822
OH	1663	12300	2854	6437	3365	4788	31407
PA	1412	8808	2110	5670	3195	4384	25579
TX	1527	19169	3324	9013	5551	7479	46063
VT	88	1004	157	483	228	401	2361
Totals	34382	293767	56670	146676	82713	109299	723507

Although Novice, Technician-Plus and Advanced licenses are no longer issued by the FCC, they are still considered valid licenses and may be renewed.

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*SARA members W2JVF, W2KE, K2RI*



*Photo courtesy of Jay Freud*

The event included recognition of those present including long term members, past officers and Broughton Award winners as well as several special people recognized in the audience including longtime member Dr. Walt Schick W2KE who celebrated his 95th birthday.

Master of ceremonies for the evening Dan Whelan N2UD spoke about SARA club history and how it was related to the area broadcast and electronics history. The featured presentation of the evening was a multi-media program on Schenectady's and GE's history in radio, television

*Master of Ceremonies, N2UD and SARA President KC2GMW*



*Photo courtesy of Jay Freud*

and shortwave broadcasting, put on by Chris Hunter Curator of Archives at the Schenectady Museum.

Many thanks are deserved by all those who made the event such a great Success. Many folks volunteered but special mention should be given to Dan Whelan, N2UD, George Williams, W2CSN, Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, Tim Long, W2UI. We hope to see you at the 100 year bash!

*Howard Lester, W2ODC enjoys the evening festivities*



*Photo courtesy of Jay Freud*

## New Hams Net

A new net on the 147.06 repeater especially for newly licensed amateur radio operators. The net will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm for one-half hour. It is designed to provide new hams an opportunity to get on the air, share their experiences and ask questions concerning amateur radio. The net will also be open to experienced operators who have a desire to serve as mentors to and share their experience with the "newbies".

**75 Years of Service  
1930-2005  
Schenectady Amateur  
Radio Association K2AE**



## Niska-Day 2005

SARA hams again provided communications for the Niska-Day parade on Saturday May 21. The weather was almost perfect, especially for the parade in the morning, with sunny skies and cool breezes. There were large crowds throughout the day for the parade and the events at Niskayuna High School.

A table in the information tent was provided to SARA for the special event operation in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of SARA. A low power transceiver was set up with a long wire antenna to operate on 40 meters and higher frequencies. Operation was hampered by a strong RF noise level and high background noise from the large crowds and entertainment on the nearby stage. Several contacts were made, one with station W2UC at Union College where a reunion weekend with an open house was being observed. A good number of visitors stopped by the table at the High School to chat, obtain information about amateur radio or hear Morse code on the code practice set up.

Special thanks go to Rudy, W2JVF; George, W2CSN; Bill, W2DHT; and Andy, KB2TSA for the loan of equipment, their work in getting the equipment and antenna set up, and taken down at day's end.

Thanks also go to the following who provided communications during the parade; Sid, W2SID; George, W2CSN; Ramsey, KC2GMW; Bill, KG2AC; Millie, KB2SWR; Clark, KG2AO; Andy, KB2TSA; Ken, AA2CW; Robert, N2TSE; Bill, W2DHT; Don, W2CJO. Robert, N2TSE, was visiting in the area from Westchester County and offered his assistance which was greatly appreciated. Good job by all!

Raleigh, [K2RI@juno.com](mailto:K2RI@juno.com)

## WB2SBX Estate

WB2SBX, Fred Nusco went SK this February and his son Al Nusco would like help selling his station including a tower and antenna system. His number is 399-4228

## The Empire State Games

July 27th through July 31st.

Pre-registration is a must and has to be completed by June 14th. This will allow time to forward the information to the state so that the proper credentials can be supplied to each volunteer.

Yes, this will be fun. Don't forget that each operator gets a master pass that allows you to go to any other sporting event you might want to see when your shift is open. Volunteers may also request an extra master pass for a family member to see the action. Volunteers are also invited to take part in the opening ceremony. This will be a big event. Boat parade on the Hudson, fireworks and music by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra to name a few events.

If you have any questions or want more information contact Frank Stone as soon as possible. You can call him at (845)883-5195 or send e-mail [KB2YUR@yahoo.com](mailto:KB2YUR@yahoo.com) also you can check this link <http://www.kb2yur.com>

## Bob W2XM doing well after Surgery

Bob W2XM went under surgery last month and is recovering well at Sunnyview in Schenectady. He is expected home in a few weeks. His address is below. He is available for visits in the evening, call ahead to check his schedule, he is quite busy, probably teaching a novice course in his free time there. Everyone here wishes Bob a speedy recovery.

Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital  
1270 Belmont Avenue  
Schenectady, New York 12308  
Room # 271  
Phone: 382-0074 ext. 6216

## Field Day 2005!

The time is upon us, visit our web page <http://www.k2ae.org> for a list of committees and activities and contact Jay Freud at 383-3421 to reserve your operating time and favorite setup/takedown activity.



**VHF Contest**

Everyone is reminded that the June VHF Contest will be held from 2 PM on Saturday June 12 through Sunday 11 PM night. Operations will be on all modes and bands above 50 MHz. On FM no repeater operation is allowed, however contacts can be made on normal FM simplex channels such as 52.525, 146.49, 146.55, 223.50, 446.00 etc. are used with the exception of the 146.52 national 2 meter simplex channel which is not allowed. If this is your first contest try 146.55 FM simplex using the best antenna you can outside or a mobile antenna during the early evening hours or Sunday afternoon between 1-3 PM.

SSB operation is all USB and is around 50.125, 144.200, and 432.100. The QSO exchange is your callsign and your VHF Grid. If you are driving around you are a "Rover" and should use the grid you are currently in. The grids are aligned on one degree of latitude and two degrees of longitude and is typically FN-32, FN33, FN22 or FN23 in this area depending where you live. The vertical east-west dividing line (74 degrees Longitude) goes between FN22 and FN32 goes due north and south of roughly Thruway Exit 25A (I-88) and the North-South dividing line (43 degrees latitude) goes between FN33 and FN 32 runs through the middle of the village of Ballston Spa. The grids further west of there (west of 74 degrees longitude) and north of Galway lake are FN23 and south (of the 43 degree line) are FN-22 and they go down into the Helderbergs. See the May issue of QST or the ARRL website for contest details. Consult a topographic map or a GPS for your coordinates. -Dan, [N2UD@arrl.net](mailto:N2UD@arrl.net)

**Hamfests**

The largest hamfest in upstate New York is the Rochester Hamfest which will be held June 3 -5 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds just south of Rochester. Details on their website <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org>

11 Jun 2005 + Skyline Amateur Radio Club  
Cortland County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Drive; Cortland, NY  
<http://www.skylineradioclub.org> Talk-In: 147.180

16 Jul 2005 + 25th Batavia Hamfest - Genesee Radio Amateurs  
Firemans Recreation Center; 10708 Route 98; Alexander, NY  
<http://www.hamgate.net/~gram/> Talk-In: 146.52 MHz

23 Jul 2005 + RadioCom 2005 Utica ARA  
Herkimer County Fairgrounds; Cemetery St; Frankfort(Utica), NY  
[tbd2626@yahoo.com](mailto:tbd2626@yahoo.com) Talk-In: 145.45 (-600) Call K2IQ

6-7 Aug 2005 WNY Sect./Greater Buffalo Hamfest -Lancaster  
Main Transit Firemans Grounds; 6777 Main St; Williamsville, NY  
<http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net> Talk-In: 147.255 (PL 107.2)

**SWAP**

Donation-Must take tower down by May. 60' 3 section crank-up tower with a prop-pitch motor to run it up and down. Hy-gain 3-element 20 meter beam. Hy-gain 3-element 10-15 duo-bander. Ham M rotator with control box. Lots of coax cable, Atlas 210 solid state transceiver, low band, with hump mounting bracket-Needs repair. Bill Meiklejohn, K2ENS [wmeiklej@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wmeiklej@nycap.rr.com) 399-7309

Dentron Super Tuner, Dentron Clipperton L Linear, ASTRON RS35M Power Supply, YAESU xcvr Model FT747GX, MFJ Antenna Tuner Model MFJ962C, ALINCO 2m xcvr Model DR150T, MFJ SWR Analyzer Model MFJ259B.  
Jim Halburian, K2TJB 869-5720 [Halby6@webtv.net](mailto:Halby6@webtv.net)

**Dues are Due**

Please bring your 2005-2006 dues to the next meeting, our annual business meeting. Use the coupon below to help speed up the process for George. If you have any questions contact George Williams, W2CSN @ 377-6188 or [williamg@tardis.union.edu](mailto:williamg@tardis.union.edu)



Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

Regular Dues	\$20.00	\$ _____
Spouse	\$5.00	\$ _____
Student	\$5.00	\$ _____
Repeater Donation		\$ _____
Initiation Fee	\$5.00*	\$ _____
<small>*New Members Only</small>		
Name _____	Call _____	
Nickname _____	Class _____	
Street _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
E-mail _____		
Phone _____	Signature _____	
ARRL _____	RACES _____	ARES _____ MARS _____

Send to SARA, PO Box 207, Alplaus, NY 12008-0207  
July, 2004 through June, 2005

## Board Of Directors

Pres: Ramsey Seielstad, KC2GMW,  
[vze2n6jv@verizon.net](mailto:vze2n6jv@verizon.net) 377-2263  
VPres: Dan Whelan, N2UD [n2ud@arrl.net](mailto:n2ud@arrl.net) 895-2754  
Sec: Tim Long, W2UI, [tlong2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:tlong2@nycap.rr.com) 399-7454  
Treas: George Williams, W2CSN,  
[williamg@tardis.union.edu](mailto:williamg@tardis.union.edu) 377-6188

### Directors

Millie Gittinger, KB2SWR, [gittingn@crisny.org](mailto:gittingn@crisny.org) 377-0671  
Dennis Hudson, N2LBT [n2lbt@n2lbt.com](mailto:n2lbt@n2lbt.com) 435-9730  
Carl Lester, K2YR [k2yr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:k2yr@nycap.rr.com) 893-7609  
Paul Siemers, WY2F, [siemers@crd.ge.com](mailto:siemers@crd.ge.com) 371-0215

### Standing Committees

**SARA News:** Dennis Hudson, [n2lbt@n2lbt.com](mailto:n2lbt@n2lbt.com) 435-9730

**PIO:** We need a volunteer!

**Repeater:** Scott Krone, N2YCA

[n2yca@nycap.rr.com](mailto:n2yca@nycap.rr.com) 273-1610

**K2AE:** Howard Lester, W2ODC [hlester@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hlester@nycap.rr.com)

**RFI:** Rudy Dehn, W2JVF [w2jvf@juno.com](mailto:w2jvf@juno.com) 372-6139

**Public Service:** Ken Clikeman, AA2CW

[free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com](mailto:free2aa2cw2000@yahoo.com) 861-6825

**VE Team:** Bill Mischler, KG2AC [kg2ac@juno.com](mailto:kg2ac@juno.com) 370-1350

**VE Registration (518) 370-1350**

## Activity Calendar

### June

3-5 Rochester Hamfest / ARRL Division Convention  
6 SARA Meeting  
11-13 ARRL June VHF QSO Party  
25-26 ARRL Field Day (SARA K2AE will be active)

### July

16 Batavia Hamfest

### August

6-7 ARRL UHF Contest

### September

10-11 ARRL September VHF QSO Party  
10 Saratoga County RACES Hamfest  
12 SARA Meeting

### Sunday SCESN Nets

12:30PM - K2AE 53.57 repeater  
1:00 PM - K2AE 444.200 repeater  
1:30 PM - K2AE 147.060 repeater  
2:00 PM - 3953 KHz, 75 Meter Lower SSB

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
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