

RADIO TIMES

NEWS FROM THE SCHOHARIE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



Volume I, Issue 1 – January 2024

Welcome to the First Issue of our Member's Quarterly Newsletter. The name for the newsletter was a result of 23 nominations followed by three ranked votes via email. The winning name was nominated by **Terry** (W1QF). Thank you to all who participated.

Association Officers and Contact Information

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Bert Mayne (KC2ABB)
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Don Macomber (KD2VIU)
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Matt Lacy (KD2TBS)
Treasurer
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Year in Review



As I sit here on the last few days of the year. And look back on what we have accomplished for the year. The club has come a long way we have had great outings to promote amateur radio. Received funds to get together emergency radio kits for the when it happens not if. Also increased the membership to a level that we can provide coverage for events if asked. Going forward we're going to start back up the Ares net, also a night time rag chew net to go along with the nine o'clock AM rag chew group. This is only possible with the members getting involved could be just checking into the nets. Helping with events or taking on a net control for a net. Let me also welcome back WB3CUF Wells Farr who's been appointed as ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator. Moving forward we will be working on the ARES plan. And a thank you to KD2TBS Matt Lacy for taking the position of RACES Deputy Radio Officer. And to all my officers thank you for all your support and help making the club a success. Moving forward into the new year if you have a idea or something you want to share with the group please let us know. This group is for all the members so please get involved if you can.

~ John Knoebel, KC2RMD, Association President

Pumpkin Patrol

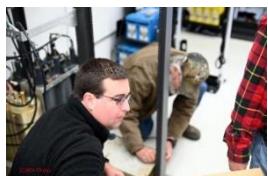


Our annual Pumpkin Patrol took place last October 30th and 31st was very successful. This is an event where ham radio operators throughout the state position themselves at bridges overlooking the interstate highways as a deterrent to anyone throwing objects from those bridges potentially

endangering passing motorists. We have five bridges in Schoharie County that we cover as well as a net control who can call law enforcement if needed. This year our "Patrollers" were: **Dennis** (N2USN), **Kevin** (N2GCT), **Barbara** (KC2JXZ), **Tom** (WB2KLD), **Bert** (KC2ABB), **John** (KC2RMD), **Matt** (KD2TBS), **Sean** (KE2BHO), and **Don** (KD2VIU).

Repeater Work

Work was completed last October on our repeater. Our repaired unit was reinstalled at a low power and an amplifier was added to give us 80 watts. It appears to have successfully enlarged our footprint as we had a nice and clear conversation from an individual located in the Herkimer and Saratoga areas. Additional work was completed in December with the addition of cans to filter some RF interference. Our THANKS go out to association members **John Knoebel** and **Matt Lacy**. Our THANKS as well go out to two individuals outside our membership, **Bob Isby** (K2RHI) and **Jim McKnight** (K2LM) for their problem-solving work. Both gentlemen traveled well over an hour to provide us with their valued and appreciated assistance.



Equipment Inventory

The club completed an inventory and tagging of our equipment following the January 11th meeting.



Assistants Named

President John Knoebel (KC2RMD), who has several titles associated with emergency communication for Schoharie County has named a RACES and an ARES Assistant.



Matt Lacy (KD2TBS) has been named as the RACES Deputy Radio Officer.



Wells Farr (WB3CUF) has been named as the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator



2023 Annual Holiday Party

The club enjoyed its annual holiday party with a dinner (following very brief meeting) at the Schoharie Fire House on December 14th. A *good time was had by all. Thank you to all who contributed by bringing and cooking the food.*



Members Working With NNY Section

Rocco Conte – Section Manager

Tom Valosin – Assistant Section Manager

Matt Lacy – Youth Coordinator
Don Macomber – Public Information Coordinator

2024 Dues

Your club dues for 2024 should be paid by the end of January. Your check for \$20 can be mailed to PO Box 394, Warnerville, NY 12187. You may also pay them electronically (with a small service charge). If you have misplaced your electronic statement, please contact Matt Lacy.

Renewing Your Amateur Radio License

If you need to renew your ham radio license and are within the 90 days of expiration date, you may complete the process online. There is a short YouTube video demonstrating the process. The video can be seen at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dl8nmjRJg4

Daily Nets

There are two radio nets run by our members which take place on an almost daily basis. At 8:30 am on 3.542 MHz is the CW net. This is followed by a phone net on our 2-meter repeater at 9:00 am. A weekly evening net on the repeater is also being considered as well as a re-activation of our monthly ARES/RACES net. Including SKYWARN monitoring. Details on any additional nets will be announced.

Happy New Year!

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know what we are doing in the section to start off the New Year.

First of all, we are working to improve communication throughout the section. I feel that it is important to let both the general public and our served agencies know what we are up to, have been up to or are planning. I have appointed Don Macomber as the NNY Section Public Information Coordinator. Don will help us manage our public information officers and look for things that we share with the public and our served agencies. We already have a volunteer for PIO in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. The section is looking for a PIO for Schoharie County. If you are interested, please contact Don or myself.

The section is working as a whole to sponsor a self-study Technician study group. Interested people can go to the <http://nnyarrl.org/class> to sign up if they are interested in getting their Amateur Radio License. There will be assignments with links to videos to watch and once a week for six weeks we will be holding Zoom sessions that people can come to for help. We will have mentors ready to answer questions and explain anything things as needed. At the end of the six weeks, there will be section wide VE sessions so people can test. If you know someone who may be interested, please point them to the NNYARRL.org site for more information and to register.

We have many other things planned for 2024 and I am looking forward to it. Again this year, we are looking at two ham fests in the section and the possibility of planning a third. One in Depauville, one in Speculator and one in the planning stages with a location to be announced. Again this year, the section will sponsor Q&A sessions at the ham fests. I will also be traveling to Field Day sites again this year.

I look forward to a busy year serving the section and our members. As always, I thank you all for your efforts.

73



The Association's VE Team

Bert Mayne is our VE Coordinator and his team members are: **Rocco Conte, Gael Joyal, Tim Nichols, Howard Selwitz, and Tom Valosin** for all amateur license classifications. **John Knoebel, Matt Lacy, and Don Macomber** for the Technician licenses.

[If you would like to become a Volunteer Examiner, please contact Bert.](#)

Our schedule for the 2024 testing sessions is currently under development.

2024 Meeting Schedule

Our business meetings are held on the [second Thursday of each month](#) at the Schoharie Fire House, 114 Fort Road, Schoharie, NY.

Thank You to all who contributed to this premere issue of our newsletter.

Facebook: facebook.com/www.schoharieamaturradio.org

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Mailing Address

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~ Rocco – WU2M, ARRL Northern New York Section Manager

Association Media

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