

RADIO TIMES

NEWS FROM THE SCHOHARIE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

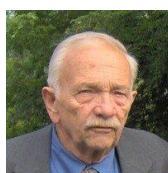
Volume I, Issue 2 – April 2024



Hamshack Hotline



Matt (KD2TBS) gave a presentation on the Hamshack Hotline system following the March 14th meeting. Hamshack Hotline is a free dedicated voip telecom service for the ham radio community. Learn more at: <https://hamshackhotline.com/>



The club was saddened to learn that our former member and friend, Jerome "Jerry" Zink, Jr. (AB2B) passed away in February. Jerry was very active in the club serving in several leadership roles. He will indeed be missed.

Silent Key

Saturday & Sunday, June 22nd & 23rd, at Jefferson Park, in Jefferson, NY.



Our chairperson is Dennis Bulger (N2USN). Dennis would appreciate someone volunteering to be his assistant.

Field Days

SCARA ARES Net Information

The club will be reestablishing its ARES Net beginning in April 25th. The net will take place on the 2-meter repeater (subject to change in the future) beginning at 7:00 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. Any updates to this information will be emailed to the members.



AREDN Presentation



A presentation on AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) is in the planning stages. The event, when scheduled, will be held at the Schoharie Fire House and members from other radio clubs will be invited. You can visit the AREDN website at: <https://www.arednmesh.org>

License Testing Schedule

Thursday, July 10th
Thursday, September 12th
Thursday, October 10th

Exams take place at the Schoharie Fire House. The doors open at 5:45 pm. Individuals interested in taking an exam must register in advance via the website. The deadline for registering is one week prior to the examination date.

Congratulations Matt

Congratulations go out to **Matt Lacy (KD2TBS)** who just upgraded to an Amateur Extra.



For those who did not know, Matt is also a volunteer amateur radio operator associated with the Boston Marathon taking place on April 15th.

Welcome Tomasz, KD2NNQ

The members of the association would like to welcome our newest member, **Tomasz Duszyk (KD2NNQ)**. Tomasz upgraded to his general license during our April VE Session and then immediately joined our club. He resides in Middleburgh and is interested in a wide variety of amateur radio activities.

World Amateur Radio Day

World Amateur Radio Day, held each year on April 18, is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and their national associations. On this day we invite all radio amateurs to take to the airwaves to enjoy our global friendship with other amateurs, and to show our skills and capabilities to the public.

~from the ARRL April 2024 issue of The Current

Current Club Membership

As of today (Monday, April 15th) our club has 41 members. We have 14 members with their Amateur Extra, 19 members with General, 7 members with Technician, and 1 member without a license.

Photographs Wanted

As you participate in various amateur radio activities, please take a few photographs so we might use them in this newsletter and/or the website. If possible, provide a caption (as well as who took the photo). The JPEG file format is preferred. Please email them to Don Macomber (KD2VIU) at his email kd2viu@gmail or the club's email address wa2zwm.scara@gmail.com.

If you wish, send a photo of your shack and perhaps it will be included in a future issue of the newsletter.

~ Thank you.

WANNA HAVE SOME FUN??
LET'S DEMONSTRATE HAM RADIO TO A BUNCH OF TEENAGERS!

On Saturday, May 18, some Saratoga County ARA members will share the joy of amateur radio with a group of 4-H teens at the **4-H Training Center on Middleline Road in Ballston Spa.**

We need a few ham volunteers like you, to demonstrate what hams can do -- Voice, Digital, Public Service, EmComm, and whatever else seems exciting. We can show them worldwide SSB, FT8, HTs, Go-Boxes/Bags and encourage a whole new generation of young hams to join our hobby.

Sounds like fun, right? Then send me an email and say you'll join us. Tell me what's your favorite part of ham radio and what part you'd like to play in our show 'n tell. Let's light a fire in these young boys and girls.

Some possible topics we might demo: Worldwide voice contacts; Repeaters; POTA (Parks On The Air); Diabetes Tour de Cure Comms; Field Day; Satellites/ISS; Youth Ham Radio camps; Contesting; Kit Building; Low Power QRP

For some ideas, here's a great video about British kids in ham radio: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x6x_6mDVIQ
We'll have a Zoom meeting and probably a live practice session beforehand.

Send me an email -- tell me you're coming (petermil12833@gmail.com) And what you'd like to show. Or call me to chat about ideas. THANKS!
Peter - W2BE (518) 986-1444

Repeater

There is, from time-to-time, problems with our 2-meter repeater. The problem is not so much with our equipment but with county equipment on the same tower. If you experience problems, please let John Knoebel (KC2RMD) know. Just don't complain about it, provide John with specific information, including, date and time, type of problems you are experiencing, and weather conditions at the time. This information can assist John when he discusses the situation with county officials.

Special Event Station

Plans are in the preliminary stages for the club to conduct a Special Event Station on Sunday, July 14th. The event will take place at the Esperance Presbyterian Church as part of their 200th anniversary celebration. The event is tentatively scheduled from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. Additional details will be coming. Bert Mayne (KC2ABB) will be the chairperson for the event.

An Oldie but a Goodie

This "story" has many different versions. This particular one is geared to the amateur radio community. As we begin to work on antennas after the Winter let us think of this story, be cautious, and perhaps smile a little.

A ham is sitting at his desk answering a letter from his insurance company...

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block 3 of the accident reporting form. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio Operator and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot antenna tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley which was attached to the gin-pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools, (you will note that in block 11 of the report form that I weigh about 155 pounds).

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded up the side of the tower at a rather rapid rate. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my ascent up the side of the tower, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Luckily, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of the intense pain. At the same time however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Lacking the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed only about 20 pounds. Once again, I'll refer to my weight as given in block 11. As you can imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level I met the barrel coming up. Well, this accounts for the two fractured ankles, the lacerations of my legs and the unmentionable injury to my groin area.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of tools, and I was fortunate to have only 3 vertebrae cracked. I am sorry to report however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and not observing the barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind-- I let go of the rope."

~ reprinted from: <https://forum.expeditionportal.com/threads/friday-ham-humor-the-tower.59860/>