



SCARA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014



Celebrating over 50 Years Affiliation with the ARRL

SCARA P.O. Box 121 Linwood, NJ 08221

Repeaters 146.745 MHz PL 142.6 and 448.775MHz

Meeting Notice

Our next regular club meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13th, 7:30 PM. at the Canale Training Center. **Plenty of room, conversation and refreshments for everyone!**

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SCARA 2014 Monthly Calendar

VE Test Session:

1st Thursday each month, testing begins at 7:00 PM at Canale Center

AuxCom & SkyWarn Net:

Mondays 7 PM on 146.745 MHz, K2BR /R

SCARA VHF Net:

Every Thursday 7:00 PM on K2BR Repeater

SCARA HF Net: Sun. Mar 16, 10:00 AM, 3.928 MHz +/- QRM

RACES Net: Mar. 24, 7:00 PM Canale Training Center

Board Meeting: To be announced

Meeting Report February 20th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by our President Bill, KC2ONQ. Minutes from the December meeting were read by our Secretary Mandy, KC2QOG. The minutes were accepted as read. The treasurer's report was read by Larry, KB2MN, from notes provided by Bob, WA2YSA. The current balance was \$1366.05, and petty cash balance was \$105.59. Current membership was reported as 76, which includes 11 complimentary memberships.

Sunshine: Bob, K2MYS, is continuing to improve slowly. George Strayline, W2GSS, who has been ill for some time, has been diagnosed with cancer.

The newsletter is now being produced by Bill KC2AAY and Bill KD2EOY. Nancy, N2ANG, is copy editor. As always, the newsletter editors are looking for submissions from our members for inclusion in the newsletter.

Rich Stevens, KC2ROQ, has resigned from the Board of Directors for personal reasons. Tim Adams, KD2EGR, has been appointed to fill the open slot. Thanks to Rich for his service and welcome to Tim.

Larry, KB2MN, reported the website has been updated with pictures from the annual dinner. It was also noted that we have an online swap shop. Please e-mail your amateur radio "for sale" and "wanted" items to kb2mn@verizon.net. The club is looking for a couple of people to help Bob Webb with merchandise sales at meetings and events. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the club historical committee.

Good of the Order: It was noted that the ARRL 160 meter SSB contest was coming up on the weekend of Feb. 22-23. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. Following the meeting, an ARRL video on the history of amateur radio and its importance in the areas of science, education and public service was enjoyed by our members and guests. Following the video, refreshments and good conversation were enjoyed by those present.



Elmers wanted!

Letter from Jerry W2ZMU

(An "Elmer" is a mentor for new amateur radio licensees.)

I have had my license for 4 years. After getting my license, I purchased a shortwave radio and antenna. In the four years that I have owned it, I have never once spoken into the microphone. I am scared to death because I am unsure of the proper procedure. Neither do I know on what frequencies I am most likely to find someone with whom to chat. I am the Emergency Management coordinator for Margate. During Hurricane Sandy, I wanted to utilize my handheld as part of the RACES net. All I knew was that I never got an answer when I called out, although the indicator showed that I was on the correct frequency. With telephone service out and cell phone spotty, there was no way that I knew what to do. Not until Margate got assistance from KC2AAY from SCARA and the radio was set properly, did it work. But nobody had ever approached me previously to ask if my equipment was working properly. My assumption, when I would try to get onto the weekly net, was that my home was in a dead zone. I try to get to meetings and try to get on weekly nets when I don't have other functions. I don't want you to think that this letter is a complaint. It most certainly is not. It is a cry for help.

Here is what I have discovered in my own case and what is probably happening to many others who have taken the licensing courses and gotten their license. When I get to meetings, the many people there will greet me, but mostly they (properly) converse with old friends. I have

always gone with the adage that if you can't add something to the conversation, just keep quiet. I have never gotten any information about who I should ask for assistance. Perhaps the club should look into having a class, welcome a new licensee with a designated contact, or some other method to proactively assist the new licensee. I am sure that those who took advantage of the help would get more interested and be more likely to become and remain active members.

I spoke with Jerry at our last general meeting and asked if it would be OK to put his letter into the SCARA newsletter. He said that was fine. After spending some time with Jerry in his shack, I realized that many of us, me included, don't remember what it was like when we started out in the hobby. Food for thought!
Larry KB2MN

Upcoming Events

The next upcoming event is Earth Day, April 27th at the ACUA at 6700 Delilah Rd., EHT. SCARA will have a radio booth at the event.

May 4th, 9:00am till around noon. MS walk on the Ocean City Boardwalk. We are meeting at 8:30am at the Civic Center and utilizing the OC repeater. (147.285 PL 91.5)

“OOVOO”

<http://www.oovoo.com/home.aspx>

At our last Board meeting Bill KC2ONQ demonstrated the services of OOVOO. Using this service he was able to video conference two board members, one from Florida and one from Philly, so they could participate in the meeting. Bill is continuing to research this service to

see if we can utilize it at the general meetings.

Written By: Dan KB6NU

ARRL membership: Is 25% asking too much? In the March 2014 issue of QST, ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, makes a big deal of the fact that ARRL membership is now up to 162,200 members and is growing at a rate of about 1% per year. After patting the ARRL on the back about this, WJ1B launches into a discussion of the different programs that WJ1B feels have contributed to the membership growth.

Let's take another look at the numbers, though. As the editorial points out, 10,300 ARRL members are international members, meaning that 151,900 U.S. hams are ARRL members. Another article in the March issue, "New Licenses," notes that the total number of licensed radio amateurs at the end of 2013 was 717,201. If you do the math, you'll find that only slightly more than one in five licensed radio amateurs are ARRL members. I personally don't think that's so hot, and it's certainly not worthy of all the self-congratulation going on in this editorial.

The licensing article also points out that "the amateur radio population in the US grew by slightly more than 1 percent last year." That being the case, ARRL membership has grown at about the same rate. If all the programs noted in WJ1B's editorial were so effective, wouldn't you expect membership growth to be at least 2%?

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. I think the ARRL should set a goal to enroll at least

25% of licensed radio amateurs as members. I think that this is achievable, and it seems to me that any group calling itself "the national organization for amateur radio" should have at least one in four amateur radio operators as part of their membership. I think it says something that the membership rate is so low. What do you think? Am I right or is reaching 25% asking too much?

How are wavelength and frequency related to each other?

Wavelength is the distance a wave travels during a single, complete cycle. It can be measured by the distance between two crests of the same wave, and is reported in meters. Frequency pertains to how many of these cycles a wave completes in one second. The unit of frequency is the Hertz (Hz), or cycles per second. The wavelength and frequency of any wave are inversely related to each other. That is, if the wavelength is longer, the frequency is smaller. For electromagnetic radiation, including light, wavelength and frequency are related to each other by the speed of light: $c = \text{wavelength} * \text{frequency}$ where $c = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ (approx). It should be noted that this is the speed of light in a vacuum, so if your wave is propagating through a medium such as water or a particular solid, this must be taken into account.

Monthly VE Test Session

On the first Thursday of each month SCARA holds a VE test session (if at least one candidate registers). For information call Larry, KB2MN, 609-287-5340. The test location is the Canale Training Center, 5033 English Creek Ave, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234. The doors open at 6:30 PM and testing begins at 7:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. Be sure to bring your photo I.D. and current license if you are upgrading to a higher license class. The current testing fee is \$15.

AuxComm Monthly Test By KC2AAY

Most of you have received a phone call, email, text message or even a message displayed on your TV screen if you have Comcast from the AuxComm computer system. This test takes place on the first day of every month. If there was a major event taking place and AuxComm was activated a message would be displayed or spoken with further instructions. The following is the message when we are in standby mode/non-activation. **“Auxiliary Communications notification system. If this were an actual emergency you would receive further instructions. This is only a test.”** Any question or concerns about the notification please contact one of us: Bill KC2AAY or ED W2KP.

Dits n' Dahs

Reminder: SCARA has an online amateur radio swap shop. Go to our website to see current listings. E-mail your For Sale and Wanted" items to Larry, KB2MN, kb2mn@verizon.net

Update: SNL December 2013.
Product Review: Rig Expert AA-30. In the original article I stated I could not find the warranty terms for this unit. Upon further investigation, the unit has a 2 year repair or replacement warranty from Rig Expert Canada. The warranty paper was in the box. Larry Schall KB2MN

A reminder to all: You can report WX conditions online at:
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/phi/wxreport.htm>

Swap Shop

For Sale: For older Kenwood radios: CW filter YK-455C-1, 500 Hz, \$75. Lucent Technologies Model 1715 digital answering machine \$10.00. MFJ-1272MYV mic/TNC switch \$10. Larry KB2MN (609) 287-5340
kb2mn@verizon.net



Club Information 2014

Officers

President:	Bill McCord	KC2ONQ	(609) 435-0598
Vice Pres:	Harry Cohen	KD2AYT	(609) 575-2974
Treasurer:	Bob Webb	WA2YSA	(609) 646-6843
Secretary:	Mandy McCord	KC2QOG	(609) 435-0598

Board of Directors

Stan Friedman	WA3JMV	Arnie Oberson	W2OB
William Paulus	W2MWI	Bob Nicotera	KB2ERL
Tim Adams	KD2EGR		

Committee Chairs

VE Coordinator	Larry Schall KB2MN	ARRL QSL Card Mgrs.	W2OB
Sunshine	Bob Webb WA2YSA	Dinner Chair:	Harry Cohen, KD2AYT
Refreshments	KC2ONQ	Field Day	Bill Schwoer
ARLHS Coordinator	Ed Clark W2KP	Repeater	W2KP, KC2AAY
Newsletter Editors	Bill Schwoer KC2AAY	Bill Paulus	KD2EOY
Newsletter Copy Ed.	Nancy Jarrín N2ANG	Trustee:	Bill Schwoer
E-mail	SCARA@k2br.com	Web site Ed.	Larry Schall KB2MN
SCARA Web	http://www.k2br.com		