



# SCARA NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2015



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

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### Meeting Notice

Our next regular club meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9th, 7:30 PM at the Canale Training Center.

Plenty of room, conversation and refreshments for everyone!



### 2015 Contests

All ARRL contests for 2015 can be found on the ARRL Contest page of their website at : <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>.

A generic ARRL contest calendar is provided that gives the weekends for all our events, to assist with long-term planning of your contest operations. The Contest Corral files include non-ARRL events.

### SCARA 2015 Monthly Calendar

**AUXCOMM RACES Net:** Every Monday at 7 PM on 146.745 MHz, K2BR /R

**SKYWARN NET:** Immediately following the AUXCOMM RACES Net

**SCARA VHF KISS Net:** Every Thursday at 7:00 PM on K2BR Repeater. Net Control will be Bill Paulus Jr. KD2EOY except on the third Thursday of each month Net Control will be Larry Schall KB2MN

**SCARA HF Net:** Third Sunday of every month at 10:00 AM 3.928 MHz +/- QRM

**Board Meeting:** Last Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Canale Training Center

**VE Test Session:** 1st Thursday of each month. Doors open at 6:30 PM, testing begins at 7:00 PM at the Canale Training Center. Pre-registration is required!

### Monthly VE Test Sessions

On the first Thursday of each month SCARA holds a VE test session. For information call Larry Schall KB2MN at 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.

### President's Note

Congratulations to the new hams who got licensed at our last VE sessions and the new members who have recently joined SCARA. Anyone care to participate in a SCARA Fox Hunt?

### Special Events

SCARA will be presenting a Fox Hunt-Morse Code-Radio Event on the first Saturday of each month at the Jersey Shore Children's Museum located on the upper level of the Hamilton Mall near Sears.

Children visiting the museum can participate in:

- talking to operators around the world
- play FOXHUNT
- learn about Morse Code and more!

With enough participation there is the possibility of expanding this to a weekly event.

If you have any questions, about this or any other event, please contact Bill McCord KC2ONQ at 609-435-0598.

## Amateur radio fans celebrate 'original social network'



Bob Webb of Southern Counties Amateur Radio Association host a ham-radio event for the children at The Jersey Shore Children's Museum in Hamilton Mall Saturday, April 4, 2015.

Press of Atlantic City .com  
Posted: Saturday, April 4, 2015 4:30 pm  
By MICHAEL MILLER, Staff Writer

**MAYS LANDING** – William McCord clicked the receiver on his ham radio and sent a greeting out into the ether.

This time only static replied. But sometimes he reaches people across South Jersey or even across the Atlantic Ocean.

McCord, of Middle Township, and Bob Webb, of Northfield, gave a presentation on amateur radio to children Saturday at the Jersey Shore Children's Museum in the Hamilton Mall. The Southern Counties Amateur Radio Association is a regular presenter at the nonprofit museum.

In some ways, ham radio was the world's first social network.

"I've talked to someone in Australia," McCord said.

The typical radio signal travels just 10 miles or so but can be carried over repeaters to distant ears thousands of miles away, he said.

"We have one guy in our club in England who talks to us all the time," Webb said.

Webb also introduced children to morse code, something he learned as a teenager when he got his first amateur radio license from the Federal Communications Commission. Even today operators have to take a test and abide by FCC rules such as using no foul language and staying off emergency frequencies, among others.

"Texting has been around for 100 years through morse code. Even then we wouldn't spell out whole words. It's a binary code," Webb said.

Common morse phrases are "BCNU" for "be seeing you."

"The idea has always been to communicate the message quickly – not to spell everything correctly," he said.

Operators typically make small talk about the weather, their location and the radio equipment they're using. Webb said he used to talk to Russian amateur radio operators during the Cold War. They never had long conversations, he said.

"The Soviets, they'd only tell you the weather and say bye-bye," he said.

Webb said he thinks the Russian operators were fearful of being monitored by their government.

The club will host a field day June 27 at the Canale Training Center at 5033 English Creek Road in Egg Harbor Township. They will be competing with other radio operators around the country to set up equipment in a mock emergency, McCord said.

Emergency managers in South Jersey still rely on amateur radio operators to provide backup communications after every major storm.

Webb and McCord volunteered after Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and the Atlantic County derecho storm that knocked out power to parts of Atlantic County for weeks in 2012.

"I spend Sandy at the Crest Haven Nursing Home and then at Pleasantville High School," Webb said. "They need volunteers to help run the communications."

Ham radio equipment is portable and is not dependent on cell towers or a local source of electricity.

And the club gives a monthly presentation at the Children's Museum.

“We’re a STEM-based museum – Kate Chiumento, of Ocean City, said. “So the ham radio goes hand in hand with that.”science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” staff member

### Should We Weep For Amateur Radio?



by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On an amateur radio mailing list that I subscribe to, one fellow wrote, "I weep for the state of amateur radio in the US, since this dispatch is apparently necessary..." He then pointed to an article on the ARRL website that reminded hams that while their local time may be switching to daylight time, Universal Coordinated Time did not change (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/change-local-clocks-this-weekend-but-not-utc>).

The implication, of course, was that we have dumbed down ham radio so much that a reminder like this was necessary.

This thread went on and on, eventually garnering 17 different replies. Before it morphed into a discussion of whether or not DST is a good idea in the first place, the replies echoed the sentiment in the original e-mail:

“It’s become a push button, nanny state world, what do you expect, competence?”

“We are truly in a time of appliance operating, not only in ham radio, but in practically every aspect of our lives. :(“

At first, I had the same reaction. I thought to myself, “How dumb are we getting in ham radio, if guys have to be reminded that UTC doesn’t change when we switch to daylight savings time?” After thinking about this for a while, though, I’ve completely change my mind on this.

I work with a lot of newcomers to amateur radio, and many of them just don’t know how UTC works. This is not their fault—they just haven’t had the opportunity to deal with UTC. What these old timers (old farts?) didn't realize is that the ARRL article is not directed at them, but at the newcomers to ham radio.

I’ll even go one step further. It’s easy for us old-timers to be dismissive of newcomers’ lack of knowledge, and then complain that amateur radio is getting dumber, but knee-jerk reactions don't usually help anyone involved. A much better approach would be to roll up your sleeves and teach them something. The only way newcomers are going to get to be old timers like us is if we help them learn stuff like this.

When not teaching newbies about UTC, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). From <http://dbara.org/interest/kb6nu> March 29, 2015

### Membership Recruitment Incentive

New for 2015 is the SCARA Membership Recruitment Incentive Program. For every new member joining SCARA for the first time, who presents a SCARA business card with your name and call-sign on the back, you will receive a one dollar credit towards your next year's membership.

### Swap Shop

Keep an eye on this section in future news letters. You never know when someone nearby may be looking to sell off some excess equipment. To have your equipment listed here please email Dave Holmes KD2AYQ at [kd2ayq@aol.com](mailto:kd2ayq@aol.com) with a list of items you have for sale. Please include make, model, age, condition, asking price of your items and preferred method of contact.

Reminder: SCARA has an online amateur radio swap shop on our website, [www.k2br.com](http://www.k2br.com). Go to our website to see current listings. For listing items on the website swap shop, email your "Wanted" & "For Sale" items to Larry Schall, KB2MN, at [kb2mn@verizon.net](mailto:kb2mn@verizon.net)

**Assistant Treasurer  
Position Available**

This position entails aiding the treasurer with the sale and distribution of club merchandise including, but not limited to, mugs, lapel pins, decals and bags. If interested, contact Bill McCord at 609-435-0598.

**Club Information 2014**

**Officers**

President:	Bill McCord	KC2ONQ	(609) 435-0598
Vice Pres:	Bill Paulus, Jr.	KD2EOY	(609) 694-7976
Treasurer:	Bob Webb	WA2YSA	(609) 646-6843
Secretary:	Mandy McCord	KC2QOG	(609) 435-0598

**Board of Directors**

Stan Friedman	WA3JMV	Bob Nicotera	KB2ERL
William Paulus	W2MWI	Donnamarie Adams	KD2ERC
Tim Adams	KD2EGR		

**Committee Chairs**

<b>VE Coordinator</b>	Larry Schall KB2MN	<b>ARRL QSL Card Mgr</b>	Arnie Oberson W2OB
<b>Sunshine</b>	Bob Webb WA2YSA	<b>Dinner Chair:</b>	Harry Cohen KD2AYT
<b>Refreshments</b>	KC2ONQ	<b>Field Day</b>	Bill Schwoer KC2AAY
<b>ARLHS Coordinator</b>	Ed Clark W2KP	<b>Repeater</b>	Ed Clark W2KP
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Dave Holmes KD2AYQ		Bill Schwoer KC2AAY
<b>Trustee:</b>	Bill Schwoer KC2AAY	<b>Web site Ed.</b>	Larry Schall KB2MN
<b>E-mail</b>	SCARA@k2br.com		