

PO Box 121
Linwood, New Jersey 08221

www.k2br.com
scara@k2br.com



Repeaters:
146.745 - 146.2
448.775 - 118.8

NEWSLETTER for February 2016

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Meeting Notice:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the SCARA club will be on Thursday, March 10, at the Canale Training Center on English Creek Road. The meeting begins promptly at 7:30 pm. Refreshments are served after the meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The last club meeting was a special event celebrating Hunter, KD2JUB, receiving his amateur radio license. He is the youngest. His achievement was made noteworthy by a Proclamation from the Senate of the State of New Jersey. State Senator Jeff Van Drew declaring February 12 as Hunter's Day. This is a rare and special achievement. Proud members of his family, press, and a room filled with supporter filled the room. Well-wishers came from several counties to mark the achievement.

Important Monthly SCARA Events

Monday

AuxComm Practice Net
at 7pm, on the K2BR
VHF repeater
SKWARN Practice Net
immediately follows the
AuxComm Net.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
COME TO CHECK IN TO
ONE OR BOTH OF THE
NETS**

SCARA VHF KISS NET:
Net Control will be Bill Paulus KD2EOY except on the third Monday of the month. Larry, KB2MN, Adam KD2FVV, or Tim KD2EGR will serve as net control.

SCARA HF NET is held on the third third Sunday of every month at 10:00 am local time on 3.928 MHz +/- QRM.

Board Meeting is held the last Thursday of the month, starting at 7:30 pm at the Canale Training Center and now is available on ooVoo.

VE Testing Sessions: Are held on the 1st Thursday of each month with doors opening at 6:30pm; testing begins at 7:00 pm. Section on VE Testing

VE TESTING SESSIONS

SCARA is proud of its ability to offer VE sessions at regular, specific times, aimed at helping someone get their first license or upgrading to a higher grade license. The process is not as easy as it might sound. Certain license upgrades require a different mixture of Volunteer Examiners (VEs).

To make the process work, the session is only help if there are one or more individuals who have register to attend the session. For more information, contact Larry, KB2MN, (609-287-5340). The Test location is at the Canale Training Center. 5033 English Creek Road, Egg Harbor Township. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the exams start at 7:00pm. **YOU MUST BRING PHOTO ID (AND YOUR CURRENT LICENSE IF YOU ARE UPGRADING TO A HIGHER LICENSE CLASS.**

Try to give Larry as much notice as you can!

QSL CARDS

See Arnie, W2OB, for outgoing DX QSL cards. This service is available to SCARA club members who also belong to the ARRL. Please bring outgoing QSL cards for shipment. For additional information, see the "Outgoing QSL Buro" link in the "Contents" section of the SCARA webster, www.k2br.com

AuxComm and Skywarn

There is a combined AuxComm and Skywarn practice net that is held every Monday evening. The net begins at 7pm. The Skywarn portion usually starts around 7:30 pm. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO CHECK IN!**

The nets keep us practiced in the event that we might become activated. In addition, Bill, KC2AAY can pass along any information needing dissemination, or have me relay it.

For more information on joining AuxComm, see Bill, KC2AAY.

For information regarding the SKYWARN program, Tom Hurst, AB2KP is the contact person

February Newsletter in progress

What would Wayne Do?

Social Media and Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In the last ten years, there's been an explosion in social media. I've found some to be really great. Others, I haven't found to be to my liking. Here are my opinions on a few of the most popular social media websites:

* **Twitter** (twitter.com). I like Twitter. I have more than 3,000 followers on Twitter, and it's not only helped me sell more books, I've found out about a lot of great projects, and I've met and corresponded with a lot of great hams there. It's a lot of fun. If you have a Twitter account, follow me there. I'm @kb6nu.

* **Facebook** (facebook.com). I have a Facebook account and I even have a page for my study guides. I don't like using Facebook, though, and avoid it when I can.

* **Reddit** (reddit.com/r/amateurradio). Reddit hosts a very active amateur radio forum. What I like about Reddit is that these guys, unlike say the forums on eHam.Net or QRZ.Com are really interested in doing stuff, not just complaining or arguing. A lot of the hams on Reddit, and its associated IRC channel (talk about retro!), #redditnet, have used my study guides, and apparently, I'm quite popular there.

* **Blab** (blab.im). Blab is an interesting concept. It's kind of like an interactive podcast. You can record the blab sessions and then post them to YouTube or your own website. When I suggested having a regular Blab session to talk about ham radio topics to my blog readers, they weren't very enthusiastic about it. Even so, I think that I'm just going to do it. Sometimes you

just gotta go with your gut, and my gut says this could be fun and eventually popular. Blab is integrated with Twitter, so if you follow me on Twitter, you'll find out when I'm blabbing.

The biggest problem with participating on these social networks, of course, is that it takes a lot of time, time that could be used for building stuff or getting on the air. Even so, I would say that, overall, using them has certainly increased my enjoyment of amateur radio and has connected me to people that I probably would not have connected with otherwise.

What do you think? What social media accounts do you have? Which do you prefer? What have they done for you?

When he's not blabbing or tweeting, KB6NU likes to work CW, build stuff, and teach ham radio classes. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides).

If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I was asked to pick up this task at a rather short notice. It is for this reason that this edition might not rise to the expectations that readers are used to. One can only do the best that they can.

I intention is the have the newsletter to Larry, KB2MN, by the third week of the month so that he is able to upload the newsletter to the club website. Like any new endeavor, there are likely to be some quirks that occur and I request letting me me know but tolerating them.

I will be including high lights from the last meeting, for those who were unable to attend. In addition, I will start putting detailed instructions on how to connect to the meetings from your home computer.

I will devote a section to upcoming special events, where/when they are/ the purpose, and how many people are needed to help out.

I encourage any club member to submit something for the newsletter.

Each week, I will give any follow-up about the Amateur Radio Parity Act, HR 1301, S 1685. This peace of legislation has a profound impact on all radio amateur operators and I will do my best to keep everyone current.

Ben Liberatore N2WCL 609-402-8655 (c)
609-645-7258 (h)
n2wcl@outlook.com

Club Information

Officers

President:	Bill McCord	KC2ONQ	609-435-0598
Vice President:	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 Chairpersons

VE Coordinator:	Larry Schall,	KB2MN
Sunshine:	Bob Webb,	WA2YSA
Refreshments:	Bill McCord	KC2ONQ
ARLHS Coordinator:	<i>open</i>	
Newsletter Editor:	Ben Liberatore,	N2WCL
Trustee:	Bill Schwoer,	KC2AAY
ARRL QSL Card Mgr.	Arnie Oberson	W2OB
Dinner Chair:	Harry Cohen	KD2AYT
Field Day:	Bill Schwoer	KC2AAY
Repeater:	Bill Schwoer	KC2AAY
Website Editor:	Larry Schall	KB2MN

Club E-mail: SCARA@k2br.com
Website: www.k2br.com