

# Signals from SARA

<b>WØJH</b>	©2017 The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association An ARRL Affiliate & Special Service Club <a href="http://www.radioham.org">www.radioham.org</a>	<b>January 2017</b>
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## SARA White Elephant Exchange Party (Saturday, January 14)

*Don't miss the always popular SWEEP!*

Immediately following the Election of Officers, we'll hold the ever-popular, always fun White Elephant gift exchange.

If you need a reason to participate, consider these benefits:

1. Clean your shack of something(s) you no longer need or want!
2. Go home with something more useful/desirable than you started with!
3. FUN and SURPRISES during the event are guaranteed!

### Details & Rules:

- Each participant brings at least one wrapped "White Elephant" gift. This could be something you have laying around your Ham Shack that you don't use or no longer need. If you don't have a "White Elephant" you're willing to part with, then buy something with a maximum value of ~\$10. (Maybe take a trip to Ax-man Surplus is appropriate?!)
  - Numbers are put into a hat, equal to the number of gifts brought by members.
  - Each participant draws a number. (Those bringing more than one gift can draw as many numbers as the gifts they bring.)
  - The person with number "1" goes first.
  - The first person chooses one of the wrapped gifts and opens it.
  - The gift is described; as best as possible.
  - The person with number "2" is next and has a choice. This person can select either the unwrapped gift from the first person or – can choose to open one of the wrapped gifts.
  - If anyone has the gift they selected and unwrapped taken away from them (chosen by a subsequent participant), they can choose an unwrapped gift that someone else has (except the one taken from them) or choose one of the wrapped gifts.
  - A person cannot choose/select a gift from the person who just took it from that person in that round.



**Continued on next page**

## Announcements

**Monthly Meeting:**  
January 14, 2017  
Meeting: 09:00  
[Boutwells Landing](#)  
Auditorium A (Gables Wing)

**Program:**  
White Elephant  
Gift Exchange Party

**Pre-meeting:**  
~07:30 - 08:45  
Breakfast & Coffee  
[Perkins Restaurant](#)  
2050 Frontage Rd W  
Stillwater, MN

## SARA On the Air

**SARA Phone Roundtables**  
Daily @ 20:00 Local  
(*except* Tuesday & Thursday):  
1.966 MHz LSB +/- QRM

Monday @ 09:00 Local:  
3.856 MHz LSB +/- QRM

**Tuesday @ 19:00 Local:**  
**24.955 MHz USB +/- QRM**

**Tuesday @ ~19:30 Local:**  
**(following 12m Roundtable)**  
**50.316 MHz USB +/- QRM**

**SARA Repeater Weekly Net**  
Wednesday @ 21:00 Local:  
WØJH Repeater  
147.060<sup>+</sup> MHz (Positive offset)  
114.8 Hz TX tone (required)  
156.7 Hz Receive tone

**BPSK31/BPSK63 Digital Net**  
Sunday @ 19:00 Local:  
3581.15 MHz USB  
(500 - 1,000 Hz)  
Monitor Repeater for Assistance

Proud affiliate of the **Courage Kenny Handiham System**



- ☐ **NEW:** Gifts may not be transferred/chosen more than 3 times. (It stays put after 3 transfers.)
- ☐ The “round” continues until each person who had a gift – has a gift; exchanged or opened.
- ☐ The person holding the next, sequential number begins the next round.
- ☐ The exchange continues until all participants have one gift and all gifts are opened.
- ☐ **NEW:** The person with number “1” has the final chance to transfer/choose any gift.
- ☐ SWEEP is concluded, however members may willingly exchange gifts and barter as they wish.

Notes:

- ☐ Don't spend a lot of time/energy on wrapping. You can use a paper or plastic grocery bag – or even a garbage bag for large, odd shaped items.
- ☐ We encourage you to look thru your shack for an item you no longer want or need. (As a last resort, you can let your spouse/XYL select a gift from your shack collection!)



## Where's Porky?

The suspense mounts with each day as we get closer to the January SARA Monthly Meeting. That is the time the famous SARA **Flying Pig** has usually made an appearance to be enjoyed by those attending the SARA White Elephant Exchange Party (SWEEP).

The flying little porker tends to be a bit camera shy, but shown here is an early picture of him with Greg KØGW, that was taken on 12/6/2003.



And the little porker also shows up more recently with Peter NØGRM. Hmm, I wonder who could have snagged the little bugger a year ago?!

With several new club members since his last appearance, it would be great if he were able to attend the January meeting this year.

73,  
Shel NØDRX

## Election of Officers - Saturday, January 14

The annual SARA election will be at the meeting on January 14, with all four of the officer and one director positions being up for election. The four officer terms are for one year and the director position is a two year term. The second director position currently held by Bob Jensen WØGAF, is not up for election until next year. All of the current incumbents have agreed to serve another term if the membership chooses and have encouraged additional candidates at each of the past two monthly meetings.

### Current list of candidates:

President: Joe Heitzinger KCØOIO

Vice-President: Keith Miller AGØH

Secretary: Steve Bonine KAØOBI

Treasurer: John Zuercher N5JLZ

Director: Bill Eggers KDØOTB

Only current 2017 members have voting privileges, or are permitted to hold office. Additional candidates will be solicited at the January meeting prior to the election.



## Ice Station WØJH Special Event on Frozen Lake Elmo (Feb. 18-20)

Event co-chairs Bob (WØGAF) and Dave (WØOXB) report there are still a few operator openings available. If you're interested, let Bob or Dave know when you can participate.

### **Dates / Times / Schedule:**

February 18, 19, 20, 2017 (Presidents' Day weekend)

- Saturday, 2/18: 10:00 am Setup, Operating until ~4:00 pm
- Sunday, 2/19: 10:00 am – ~4:00 pm
- Monday, 2/20: 10:00 am – ~4:00 pm (~4:00 – 5:00 Dismantling)
- Frequencies: 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360 MHz
  - :: Tune +/- 20 kHz if QRM
  - :: SSB mode; digital operation may be used by those interested

QSL certificates will be available when requested via email address:  
IceStationW0JH2017@radioham.org

Event announcement is posted on the ARRL web site (Special Events) and will be published in the February issue of QST.

Visitors are certainly welcome to attend but for liability insurance reasons, all scheduled participants must be 2017 SARA members.

2016 Radio Ops



## From the Shack

### Notes from the President

Greetings from my shack,

Welcome to the 25th year of the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association. We will be celebrating this anniversary throughout the year, starting with the annual Ice Station WØJH Special

Event in February. We've been discussing ideas for an event to commemorate our 25 years, possibly late this summer. More to come as we develop those plans.



I took some time off between the holidays, without anything planned. I was able to do some things around the shack and spend some time on the air running JT65. I built a couple of accessories for the station: an antenna patch panel to switch between three radios and one antenna; and an A/B speaker switch box so I can switch between a powered DSP speaker (for Phone) and an Icom external speaker for the times I don't need DSP filtering on the audio. Simple projects but really practical for me. Believe it or not, I actually found a 3-pack of 1/8 mono jacks and a small project box at the Sprint/Radio Shack in West St Paul. They still have some parts & accessories in stock in the Parts Drawers.

One of my goals as President of SARA is to strive to keep the club active and moving forward. I have tried to arrange a variety of fun and informative programs. The Ask/ Stump Elmer session at December's meeting was very well received. We ran out of time that morning, leaving plenty for another run at it another time. Many favorable comments were received following the meeting. Audio recordings were made that will need to be transcribed so that we can highlight some of the questions and answers in upcoming newsletters. I am looking for someone to step up and handle that task for us and possibly oversee an Ask Elmer column for the newsletter.

Another successful event from the past year was the Radios in the Park evenings we held over the summer months. We found a nice location at Autumn Hills Park in Oak Park Heights, and we also visited Brekke Park in Oak Park Heights and Pioneer Park in Stillwater. We will be bringing Radios in the Park back this summer.

Dave WØOXB has led the efforts to establish a Tuesday evening Rag Chew that all SARA members can participate in. Those efforts have included extensive testing on multiple bands to determine the best frequency option for the group. Those efforts included many members participating in the testing and determining that 12 meters works quite well for our purposes, and 6 meters will allow Technicians to join in as well. Hats off to all those who helped with the testing on this and I look forward to hearing that Rag Chew grow.

Our January Meeting is Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 am at Boutwells Landing, in the Gables Wing (Auditorium A). Elections are scheduled for this meeting. We have a full slate of candidates; however, additional nominations will still be accepted from the floor. Be sure to attend this important meeting to exercise your voice in the leadership

of this fine Association. The program for this meeting is the SARA White Elephant Exchange Party (SWEEP); full details appear elsewhere in this issue. Dave WØOXB promises some new twists!

We've firmed up our programs through May, with Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) with Trygve Svård KDØPNQ in February, Restoring Classic Radios with Randy Olson KDØVKB in March, ARRL Update and Logbook of the World by ARRL First Vice President Greg Widin KØGW in April, and a look at SDR Radios: Icom IC-7300 and Flex-1500 planned for May.

Don't forget the pre-meeting Breakfast will be at Perkins Restaurant 2050 W Frontage Rd (Hwy 36 & Washington) in Stillwater at 7:30 am. I hope to see you there!

73 es CUL,  
de Joe KCØOIO



## SARA History – The Beginning

Once upon a time many years ago in the lovely St. Croix Valley, a group of HAMs decided they should form a ham radio club. With the aid of the few old timers that were there at the time and still around, along with having a large number of original newsletters and a few copies of old meeting minutes for reference and documentation, I hope to provide some glimpses into SARA history in our monthly newsletters throughout 2017.

I particularly want to thank Jim Anderson, WØWTP, who was the first President of our club, for major input for this month's article. He also provided recollections relating particularly to the club repeater, but will get to that later. I intend to write primarily on the origination of the club for this month's article. In 1991 Jim met an interesting gentleman named Ralph Honsvall, KDØDD. Ralph had sold his bulk oil business in Grafton, ND and had purchased a small resort near Baudette, MN. He would live there in the summer and as many "snow birds do", he would move south, but only as far as Stillwater for the winter.

Ralph worked at Ace Hardware in the St. Croix Mall, during the winter months while in Stillwater. He somehow had found that I was a ham and stopped into Kmart while I was working, for a brief chat about ham radio. Don't recall him mentioning anything at the time about a ham club, but he certainly was an avid ham and a great guy.

One day while Jim was talking with Ralph about ham radio, Ralph asked Jim "why isn't there a ham club here?" Upon being told that there was not a club at that time, Ralph said, "get one organized". As the only Stillwater ham that Jim knew was Joe Simonet, WØTBC, he talked to Joe, who also thought it was a great idea. Jim had been a ham since 1948 and had been involved in the St. Paul Radio Club in the 1950s. Joe had also been very involved with the St. Paul Radio Club, so they knew how enjoyable club activities could be.

I have not been able to document the precise date the club officially organized, but know that soon after Jim & Joe got the ball rolling, someone came up with a list of hams in the area. At an early point in the formation stage, Claudine Will, NØHQB, came into the picture and for a while postcards were sent to local hams with Claudine or Joe as the return addressee, to ask that anyone interested in forming a ham club should get together at the Big Ben Restaurant

(now Joseph's), to discuss it. Most of the original charter members consider the Anderson Hangar at Lake Elmo Airport as the birthplace for what became SARA!

It appears that the group actually became a ham club likely late in 1992 and did not begin collecting membership dues until 1993. We had somewhat of an identity issue in our early years, with 3 different names in 1993 and 2 in 1994. We were initially the "**Valley Amateur Radio Club**", then "**Saint Croix Valley Ham Club**" in May 93, then "**St. Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club**" in Oct. 93, then "**Stillwater Valley Amateur Radio Club**" in Jan. 94, and finally "**Stillwater Amateur Radio Association (SARA)**" in Feb. 94.

Over the years our monthly meetings have been held at several locations. Some venues were chosen due to location and cost, and some moves were necessitated due to need for more space as the club grew. Initial meetings were in Jim Anderson's hangar at Lake Elmo Airport, then the Stillwater City Hall (council chamber & sometimes in the fire station training room), Courage St Croix, and more recently at Boutwells Landing.

**Our initial club officers were:**  
President: Jim Anderson, WØWTP  
Vice-President: Mike Knox, WAØKKE  
Secretary: Claudine Will, NØHQB  
Treasurer: Joe Simonet, WØTBC

Shel NØDRX  
trustee@radioham.org



**SARA Needs YOU!**

Get involved ...

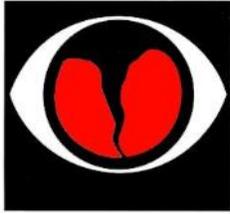
Make a difference ...

**Have fun!**

[www.radioham.org](http://www.radioham.org)



## Skywarn Class Saturday, February 25



As in the past, SARA is sponsoring one of the earliest Skywarn classes in the Twin Cities. Scheduled Feb. 25 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm (with lunch break), class will be at the Stillwater Public Library (224 Third Street North).

If you've attended in previous years, you know the library's Margaret Rivers Room is an excellent location to watch the informative photos and videos that will be presented to illustrate weather phenomena.

### SKYWARN

If you haven't taken Skywarn training recently, remember you must re-certify every two years in order to remain current. Never been to a Skywarn class?! You really owe it to yourself to attend – even if you don't plan to be an active spotter. The information in Skywarn training is valuable and can be lifesaving!

Although Skywarn severe weather net reporting requires an Amateur Radio license, the class is open to the public and is accredited for members of the police and other public safety departments. Anyone with serious interest in weather who takes this class, quickly learns the important role ham radio plays in Skywarn. It's no coincident; we start free Technician License classes the following week.

Help drum-up business for ham radio and SARA by promoting the Skywarn and Technician classes to your colleagues at work and in other non-ham organizations.

## Technician License Class & Extra Study Group Starting Thursday, March 3

Technician License classes will be held at the Stillwater Public Library (224 Third Street N.). There are eight Thursday classes plus a final exam session. Class time is 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The VE session location will be announced.

Here's a perfect time to get SOMEONE you know started in Amateur Radio. According to Bob (WØGAF), our Education and Training Coordinator, "There may never be an easier, better opportunity for virtually anyone to earn their license!"

Bob continued, "For those who might be interested in teaching in one of our licensing classes, please don't be shy. We're always looking for new instructors, and we promise to break you in easy. It's a great way to share your knowledge and to pay it forward to the ham community."

If you have questions, or would like to find out more about teaching ham classes, call Bob (WØGAF): 612.802.2269

### **Thinking about upgrading to Amateur Extra; consider joining our Extra Study Group.**

This is intended to be a self-led discussion group, with a participant serving as facilitator to guide the discussion topic each week. This will not be a classroom environment with a teacher out front, but rather a group of people talking through theories, concepts or discussing any questions that participants may have. Extra Class Licensees who wish to share in discussions based on their areas of expertise or experience are welcome to attend any sessions.

Participants should purchase the ARRL Extra Class License Manual, which will be the study guide.

# Washington County



The Navy has a saying the goes as follows: “Prior Proper Planning Precludes Poor Performance”. This is good advice for our lives from day to day as well. Having a plan for your home and family prior to an emergency or disaster can go a long ways towards mitigating injury and property loss. Here are number of steps you might take to be better prepared for such an event.

- Maintain Situational Awareness of your surroundings. Simple precautions such as an All Hazards Radio or a TV tuned to a weather channel could save your life.
- Place extra water and food in your home in the event you are required to shelter in place. FEMA.GOV recommends 3 days worth. Some agencies recommend more.
- Medical prescriptions should be filled at the early part of the renewal period, if possible. If the disaster occurs on the last day of the prescription and you can not refill, that may be detrimental to your health.
- Try out your radios periodically to make sure that they are working. Keep a battery charged and available; a scheduled recharging is a good plan. And, check into the club and ARES nets regularly so you know the times, frequencies, and procedures.
- A First Aid Kit or drawer with the proper items is good to have at hand and to renew periodically. Nothing is more useless than a band aid stuck firmly to the paper covering. Have designated places to meet at in the event of a weather emergency such as a tornado; a basement corner or under a sturdy basement table or stairwell are good choices. If you have to evacuate a home and become separated, have a pre-planned rally point for you and family members.

Finally, plan for you safety and response before the disaster event occurs. There is time now, but probably won't be enough time in the midst of the event.



73,  
John Regan, KAØHYR  
ARES EC, MN Section, Washington County

**P.S. All Amateur Radio operators are welcome to check into the Hospital Compact Net (now called the Metro District ARES Net) on the first Thursday of every month on the Hennepin County Repeater: 146.700-, PL 127.3).**

ARES members check in representing one of 30 hospitals; General Amateur check-ins are taken after the hospitals. It is a test of the back-up communications that Amateurs provide to area hospitals. This is a good way to support an important ARES function.

## **SARA Membership (as of January 1, 2017)**

**Thank you to the following 63 current members for 2017:**

AD6QT, ADØSN, AEØSL, AGØH, KAØNKH, KAØOBI, KAØPQW, KB9WTB, KC9GEJ, KCØOIO, KDØJTG, KDØLPY, KDØOOZ, KDØOPB, KDØOTB, KDØPKY, KDØVKB, KDØWGH, KEØGOM, KEØIYF, KEØIYG, KEØIYN, KEØLCF, KEØN, KIØB, KØAIF, KØGCP, KØGW, KØHAS, KØNHI, KØSIK, KØSON, KSØJ, KT9C, N5JLZ, N9JNQ, N9TOW, NØCIC, NØCQ, NØDRX, NØDXH, NØGRM, NØMR, NØODK, NØSBU, NØUHR, NØYW, VE3MXJ, VE3XT, W9IMJ, WAØTDA, WB9OKQ, WBØMOA, WDØAKZ, WDØGUP, WØDIK, WØELC, WØFL, WØGAF, WØMCQ, WØOXB, WØWTP and Mayor Rudy (White Rock, SD).

Of the above, 55 are Regular Members and 8 are Family or Associate Members. Regular Members have voting privileges and may hold a SARA office, while Family or Associate Members do not have those privileges. **Dues must be paid prior to the beginning of the January 14 meeting to be eligible to vote at that meeting.**

Anyone whom has not submitted dues for 2017, will be removed from the SARA Roster and email list by the end of January.

SARA Memberships run on a calendar year from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Dues for Regular Membership are \$20 and Family or Associate dues are \$10 per person.

**Checks for dues should be made out to SARA and sent to the Treasurer, John Zuercher N5JLZ, 935 Ferndale St N, #209, Maplewood, MN 55119.**

Please do not mail cash, but checks or cash may be given in person to John.

I do not anticipate publishing another membership list in the near future, so you may chose to print, or keep a copy of this newsletter for your reference. Be sure and let me know of any changes in your contact information, as well as license class and call sign changes, so that I can update the roster. Also contact me directly with any questions or issues regarding membership status. While everyone is welcome to attend SARA meetings, only current members with valid contact information on file will be able to receive prompt email information regarding SARA events and activities.

73,

Shel NØDRX

## Up-coming Meetings & Events

- Jan. 14: Monthly meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- Feb. 11: Monthly meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- Feb. 18-20: Ice Station WØJH Special Event Station, Lake Elmo
- Feb. 25: Skywarn Training; Stillwater Library
- March 2: Technician Class & Extra Class Study Group Sessions Begin; Stillwater Library
- March 11: Monthly meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- April 8: Monthly meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- May 13: Monthly meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights (Last monthly meeting before summer break!)
- June 24-25: ARRL Field Day

**:: Reminder:  
 Informal Eye Ball QSO Parties  
 Every Thursday; 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
 Stillwater Public Library, 224 3rd Street N.**

## 2017

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9