



# Signals from SARA

<b>WØJH</b>	©2020 The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association An ARRL Affiliate & Special Service Club <a href="http://www.radioham.org">www.radioham.org</a>	<b>January 2020</b>
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## Program: SARA White Elephant Exchange Party (SWEEP)

Don't miss the 2020 SWEEP! Yes, it's almost time for the first SARA monthly meeting for 2020.

Immediately following the 2020 Election of Officers, we'll hold the ever-popular, always fun White Elephant gift exchange.

As if you need a reason to participate, consider these benefits:

1. Clean your shack of something (or things) you no longer need or want!
2. Go home with something more useful/desirable than you started with!
3. Have FUN with guaranteed SURPRISES! (As one SARA member said, "I laughed so hard, I almost wet my pants!")



### Details & Rules:

Each participant brings at least one wrapped "White Elephant" gift. This could be something related to Amateur Radio that you have laying around your Ham Shack; maybe something 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 a trip to Ax-man Surplus is appropriate?!)

Numbers are put into a hat, equal to the number of gifts brought by members. (Members may bring a maximum of 3 gifts each.)

Continued on next page

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



## Announcements

**Monthly Meeting:  
January 11, 2020  
Meeting: 09:00**

**Boutwells Landing  
Gables Wing  
Auditorium A  
(Lower Level)**

**Program: SARA White Elephant Exchange Party (SWEEP)**

**Pre-meeting: ~07:15 - 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  
(alternates: 21.316 MHz or  
50.166 MHz USB +/- QRM)**

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

**SARA Weekly Nets:  
Wednesday @ 21:00 Local:  
SARA 2m Repeater  
147.060+ MHz (Positive offset)  
DCS/DTCS 026(Normal)**

**Digital Net:  
Sunday @ 19:00 Local:  
3.58215 MHz USB  
(500-1000 Hz) on waterfall  
Mode announced via email**

**Can't Find Us on the Air?  
... Monitor SARA Repeater!**

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 bringing the gift can assist.)
- 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.
- 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 at least one gift and all the gifts are opened.
- The person with number "1" has the final chance to transfer/choose any gift. (If this person takes a gift, it results in an exchange with the other person and "Game Over!")



Randy (KDØVKB) "brought home the bacon" at the last SWEEP ... the infamous SARA Flying Pig!

***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; you must have something you no longer want or need.
- (As a last resort, you can let your spouse/XYL select a gift from your shack! IMHO: You may NOT want to go this route!!)

## Bandwidth from the President



### ***Greetings from my shack, de Joe KCØIO.***

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

SARA lost another member in December as Tim Doffing KEØLMX went SK on December 22. Tim passed away in his sleep, according to his wife Kari. Tim was a member of SARA for just a few years. I can recall meeting him, but he was not a regular at SARA events. He did participate in the build group with the Bitx40 project some have completed.

I want to thank Collin O'Connor KEØIYN for his service as Secretary for the past two years. Collin's career is accelerating these days and he felt that he wouldn't be able to perform the Secretary's role at the level he felt it deserves. Collin has promised that he will continue to support and participate in SARA.

Election of Officers takes place at the January 11th meeting. Nominations were made at the December meeting. The current President Joe KCØIO, Vice President Bob WØGAF, and Treasurer Rich ADØSN, have been nominated to continue in their posts; Dave Iverson N9JNQ accepted the nomination for Secretary; and Zack Zaccagnini AAØU and Doug Farrell N9TOW have been nominated for the 2-year 2020-2021 term of Director. We'll have a real ballot this year!

I regularly listen to the Ham Nation audio podcast. The December 2019 episodes featured a 3-part series on tower safety by Jim Idelson K1IR. Jim grew concerned about tower safety in the amateur radio community following the deaths of 4 hams in tower climbing accidents, including Paul Bittner WØAIH. Jim has taken up a crusade to encourage tower safety and applying industry-standard safe climbing practices including training and proper equipment.

*A presentation by Jim to the Billerica Amateur Radio Society was captured on video and is available on YouTube:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IW\\_oRMzACQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IW_oRMzACQ&feature=youtu.be)

The Ham Nation series got me thinking about safe climbing – even on rooftops and ladders – and then ham radio safety in general. I came up with the idea of a “Doing Ham Radio Safely” roundtable for one of our upcoming monthly meetings. After sounding my

idea with the Eyeball QSO gang on Dec 26, we all agreed that this will be a very worthy project. So, the April 11th meeting program will be our "Doing Ham Radio Safely" roundtable. We'll focus on 4 areas: Climbing Safety, RF Safety, Electrical Safety, and Site Safety. This will be a group discussion roundtable and all amateur radio operators, SARA members & non-members, are all invited and welcome to attend and participate. Put April 11th on your calendar now, 9:00 AM at Boutwells Landing Auditorium A, for this very important roundtable.

SARA will continue to be an active club in 2020. We have the special event stations Ice Station WØJH February 15, 16 and 17 on Lake Elmo, and Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald from Split Rock Lighthouse State Park November 6, 7, and 8. ARRL Field Day is June 27 and 28 at Autumn Hills Park. We've scheduled Radios in the Park at Valley View Park for 6 Thursdays this summer: May 21 (New Ham Night), June 11, July 2, July 23, August 13 and September 3. The Technician class begins February 27th and continues for 8 weeks. The VE Session is April 23rd. We may add some other events and activities as the year progresses.

Our repeater, which is located on the King Plant stack in Bayport, recently underwent some maintenance. An opportunity was presented to use a different antenna located on the stack. The club's antennas have been up on the stack and in use for nearly 20 years. They have aged, but not that well. Grasping the base of them and shaking them gently revealed quite a bit of rattling inside. The repeater output has been moved to the antenna made available to us. The result is a much quieter signal being transmitted. The antenna is higher on the stack and faces westward. It has an omnidirectional pattern. Our coverage area has been enhanced in most directions, but there has been some reduction to the east due to the stack itself. Be sure to give it a try!

For our Jan 11th meeting, it's time to SWEEP! The SARA White Elephant Exchange Party begins at the conclusion of the regular meeting. Don't forget the pre-meeting Breakfast will be at Perkins Restaurant 2050 W Frontage Rd (Hwy 36 & Washington) in Stillwater at 7:15 AM. The breakfast gang hopes to see you there!

73 es CUL, de Joe (KCØOIO)

## **Election of SARA Officers for 2020**

Nominations for the officers of the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association were made during the December 14 meeting of the Association.

The following is the slate of officers nominated:

President:	Joe Heitzinger, KCØOIO
Vice President:	Bob Jensen, WØGAF
Secretary:	Dave Iverson, N9JNQ
Treasurer:	Rich Smith, ADØSN
Director 2020-2021:	Doug Farrell, N9TOW & Zack Zaccagnini, AAØU
Director 2019-2020:	Dan Stubbs, KEØIYF is midway through his 2-year term.

The office of Trustee is appointed by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Elections will be held during the January 11 meeting of the Association.



## A few thoughts about Second Century

Patrick Tice, wa0tda@arrl.net

It's easy to get really busy over the holidays, and when that happens we tend to set aside our usual reading and other recreational activities. You probably haven't kept up with what is happening in amateur radio, and with good reason because you have been concentrating on family activities. Let's take a look at



a couple of consequential things that I saw in QST. If you read nothing else, at least take the time to read what ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX, has to say.

Heading to the December issue, we take a look at how ARRL is undergoing a reorganization. To anyone who has worked in the corporate world in the last 20 years, much of the terminology in this last Second Century column of 2019 will be familiar. The organization is being “flattened” by “breaking down silos”, so as to better fit its operations to the new business landscape. What this means to you non-corporate folks is that ARRL staff are going to work together more effectively across their various specialties. From business to warfare to medicine, this concept has proven to make for more nimble and successful operations. ARRL is on the right track here, and we will be seeing the results in the coming decade in a more responsive, user-friendly organization.

Moving on to the first Second Century column of 2020, the January essay provides a challenge to imagine what ARRL will look like in 2025 and beyond. From mini-magazines to lifelong learning, there is a much-needed initiative to provide better services with more interest areas than ever before. A startling insight comes to light in a discussion of radio clubs and a new national club coordinator staff position to be filled in 2020. This person will be charged with “developing new ways for clubs to organize and operate”. The kicker is that “traditional clubs”, while still being supported, are not seen as the future:

*“We will continue to support traditional clubs, clubs that meet monthly for business and social events, organized ARRL Field Day activities, etc. But traditional clubs are not the future of clubs. Young people now join causes, not clubs.”*

Our own club is a traditional one, but one that has taken action to support a variety of special interest and learning activities. I urge you to read the column for yourself and think about how we are going to adapt to the new landscape emerging around us.

73 - WAØTDA

## Planning Remote HF Upgrades

Patrick Tice, wa0tda@arrl.net

WØEQO and WØZSW have been on the air a long time. WØEQO was the first Handiham HF remote, operating from Camp Courage North at Lake George in Hubbard County. It went into service around 2007 (if I remember right!) and WØZSW joined it around 2010, operating from Camp Courage near Maple Lake in Wright County. Both stations used W4MQ software, which had been featured in a QST article by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, who is now sadly a silent key. Per ARRL:

*In November 2001, Wyatt's article, "Remote Controlled HF Operation over the Internet," appeared in QST. A year later, Wyatt and co-authors Stan Schretter, W4MQ, and Keith Lamonica, W7DXX, won the QST Cover Plaque Award for their collaboration on the article, "A Ham Radio Public Utility HF Station."*

In the years following the publication of the free W4MQ software, it became popular as operators who discovered remote operation began putting their stations on the internet. The software provided for multiple password-protected users, which made it suitable for club stations. Since audio was handled through Skype, users also had to set up Skype accounts. As with most ham radio software, it ran on Windows. I did manage to get it to run on Linux using WINE, though.

As technology marched on, it became clear to us that the W4MQ software was no longer up to the task. In the more innocent days of the internet, there was a lot of software out there that wouldn't be acceptable today. The W4MQ software was great when it was released, but would not be secure enough by today's standards.

I had been researching HF remote operation and came across the RCForb software from Remotehams.com. It had several important improved features over the W4MQ software:

- Improved security
- Built in web community for support forum
- Audio handling built in (no need for Skype)
- \$10 Android app available as well as free Windows app



The original WØEQO station, running W4MQ software for rig control and Skype for audio. It was located in an unheated attic in the Courage North camp dining hall, where it ran 24/7/365, providing remote HF access to hams who would not otherwise be able to operate HF.

- Unified signup procedure for all stations operating the software at a well-maintained website
- Relatively good accessibility for people with disabilities
- Software gets regular updates
- Sponsorship by Elecraft + donations
- Offers access to hundreds of stations worldwide, with final access controlled by station owners
- Host software runs on Windows 10
- Specialized hardware not required to operate, but there is an accessory for sale that you can plug your own key and microphone into
- Runs SSB and CW (if CW hardware is available at the host station site - as is the case for our stations.)

This software has proven to be robust and has gained wide acceptance in the HF remote community.

In 2019, MFJ introduced a new HF remoting system, the RigPi, which created quite a stir at Dayton. It offered a \$300 self-contained Raspberry Pi computer and interface designed to mate with a variety of HF transceivers and would allow for operation on multiple modes, including FT-8 and other digital modes. Accessed via a web browser by remote users, it would work with any OS that ran a graphical web browser. At first blush, it seemed like an apt replacement for our failing Windows laptop system at WØEQO.

The RigPi has been on the market for quite a while now, and the reviews are mixed - at least in my opinion. As I researched, I came across users complaining about the setup procedure - it is anything but "plug & play", but some users had quite a frustrating experience. There is a forum, so some help is available there for those who know how to do their research. Of course Amateur Radio is supposed to be a technical activity, so most of us just roll up our sleeves and figure out how to make such things work. And remember, it is still early days in the evolution of this product.

Here is why I have concluded that, for now, the RigPi is not the best choice for replacement hardware at our remote stations:

- Setup is not straightforward at the host station - we can handle that - but neither is it for the end users.
- The user client does not port audio. That is done by a third-party application called "Mumble".
- There is no unified website to go to for all stations running this system, nor is there any unified signup for such a system. Every host is responsible for all vetting of

the user base for each station, making for more admin duties.

- All those extra digital modes? As a remote user, you probably can't run them using your own callsign unless you are the station's owner and host. There may be a workaround, but so far I don't see it.

At this time, I see the MFJ RigPi system as an interesting prospect, but it's just not ready for use in a busy club station. If that changes, we will look at it again. Perhaps I will try it at my station, since one seems to really learn the ins and outs of new technologies better with actual hands-on experience. Maybe another SARA member will try the RigPi and be able to report on its functionality.

We definitely don't want to go backwards to a system that requires a third-party audio system that has to be installed by every user. That was a giant tech support hassle with Skype, and all of us have better things to do with our time.

The lack of a unified signup system and station list is another serious deficiency. We really do need that, or something very like it, to make station management easier.

As I listen to the PICONET on 3.925 MHz these winter days, I hear lots of users checking in remotely. Some have their own remote stations, but lots use ours or the Brainerd club's, or even my station. One guy runs the PICONET as the net control station from his winter digs in Guatemala. Others are just checking in from wherever they happen to be, whether in a fish house on a frozen lake or from a snowbird nest in Arizona. All have registered with the unified Remotehams system and have no problem running the stations.

My recommendation is to upgrade the current station PCs with small W10 laptops and continue to use the Remotehams system. Although there will be some effort in mating the radios to the new hardware, the end users will see no difference at all in station operation and will have to make no changes in their own hardware or software, thus avoiding a huge tech support burden.

For now we are up and running at both stations, but the hardware at both has run constantly for years and was already "used" when it was deployed. In order to better maintain the stations remotely, new hardware is a must. A bonus will be lower power consumption and better reliability. A couple of years ago, I replaced my own station's host PC with a mini-PC with a solid state drive and have enjoyed excellent station up time as a result.

When winter gets less brutal (as in spring, maybe), let's revisit this and get some upgrades done.

73 - Pat, WAØTDA



## Remote Base Report:

WØEQO and WØZSW are both operational. Bill Jones, NØCIC, who lives close by WØEQO, has been instrumental in keeping WØEQO on the air.

A big thank you to SARA for continuing to support the stations.

If you are planning to travel or would just like to check out propagation from another station, go ahead and use the stations. If you need transmit privileges, contact me by email. There are more resources, including how-to videos, at <http://tice.us/wa0tda>. You may also request use of my IC-7200 station as a remote, giving you the choice between three stations!

Happy 2020!

73, Pat, [wa0tda@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tda@arrl.net)



## Membership

Our 2019 SARA membership officially ended with 114 members and have a nice start with 80 whom are current 2020 members. As of January 3rd when this is being written, Rudy Rodriguez, Joel Bulman and Dave LaCombe are 2020 members who do not currently have a ham license. Also the following 77 hams are current members for 2020: AAØU, AD6QT, ADØSN, AGØH, AK4WQ, KAØHYR, KAØNKU, KAØOBI, KAØZJG, KB9MMT, KB9WTB, KBØUXV, KC9GEJ, KCØOIO, KD3VIN, KDØDEO, KDØEAP, KDØHRM, KDØHRN, KDØIPI, KDØJTG, KDØPKY, KDØVKB, KDØZWM, KE5VXM, KEØGOM, KEØIYF, KEØIYN, KEØN, KEØOVH, KEØQAQ, KEØQBE, KEØQQM, KEØQQN, KEØROH, KEØVNY, KEØVOB, KEØVYM, KIØB, KØAIF, KØBR, KØGCP, KØGW, KØHAS, KØSON, KØZZT, KSØJ, KT9C, N5JLZ, N5LB, N9ECZ, N9ILW, N9JNQ, N9TOW, NØBJE, NØBM, NØCIC, NØCQ, NØDRX, NØDXH, NØDZQ, NØMR, NØODK, NØUHR, VE3MXJ, W3QLC, W9LHG, WAØKKE, WAØTDA, WDØAKZ, WDØGUP, WØDIK, WØELC, WØGAF, WØOXB, WØSU, WØWVO.

If you are not on this list, your membership has lapsed. Also if you are not on this list and believe you have paid dues for 2020, drop an email to [Trustee@radioham.org](mailto:Trustee@radioham.org) with pertinent information and we will research SARA records. Remember that membership runs on a calendar year basis from January 1 – December 31, so nothing is gained by submitting late payment. Dues for Regular Membership are \$20 and Associate/Family Memberships are \$10 per person. Only Regular Members have voting privileges and others do not. To be eligible to vote at the January 11th meeting, dues will need to be processed prior to the beginning of that meeting. Expired members will automatically be purged from the roster and email list on February 1st.

## **New to Ham Radio? Check this out!**

The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association (SARA) is always here to assist its members - from antenna installation to rig recommendations to All Things Ham. Our members each have a unique skill set from which to draw to help each other in amateur radio activities. For example, each spring, SARA holds a Technician education class and we see many attendees pass through to become licensed amateur radio operators!

Getting the license, however, is only the first step. Much like passing the written driver's test to get a learner's permit, it's just the first step. Now it's time to get out on the road. To drive. To operate. And SARA wants to do more to help our newly licensed operators get "behind the wheel" safely, effectively, and with enthusiasm and enjoyment. In the coming months, SARA will prepare resources and reach out to current members to find support for our new hams to ensure they find the value and joy they were looking for when they initially set out to get their license.

So look for more details in upcoming newsletters from the newly established SARA committee for helping new hams. Of course, if you are interested in helping, including, but not limited to, being a resource for tech-specific portions of amateur radio, the SARA committee can be reached via email at:

**[NewHamHelp@radioham.org](mailto:NewHamHelp@radioham.org)**



## **WØOXB Release to Listen (RTL) Award Presented at December 14 Meeting**

Once again a worthy, long-winded SARA member was recognized with the dubious honor the award represents. After recent past RTL award recipient Ray (KØZZT) finally made it to the podium, he gave a great, but lengthy (hi hi!), account and several examples of how the newest awardee earned the award.

**Drum roll ... and the new recipient is Jim (aka Jimbo) Feesl (WØELC).**



Ray (KØZZT), outfitted with his homegrown (home-caught!) coonskin cap, presents the prestigious WØOXB RTL Award to Jim (WØELC).



Jim was speechless for nearly five seconds after receiving the award. And had it not been for an important text from his Rumba® iRobot (internet-enabled) mobile floor vacuum, Jim would have carried on for at least another hour!

Congratulations to Jim for continuing the noble tradition.

You can catch Jim with the SARA Top Band Crew just about every evening. You'll learn direct from the horse's mouth how Jim is so deserving!

## Technician License Class & Extra Study Group Starting Thursday, February 27

SARA-sponsored Technician License classes will be held at the Stillwater Public Library (224 Third Street N.). There are 8 Thursday classes plus a final exam session. Class is from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The VE testing session will be Thursday, April 23 at Boutwells Landing.



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 invited to attend.



## Skywarn Class Saturday, February 29

As in the past, SARA is sponsoring one of the earliest Skywarn classes in the Twin Cities. Scheduled Feb. 29 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 see the informative photos and videos that will be presented to illustrate weather phenomena.



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 same week.

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## Top Band Award Goes to Jim (WØELC)

Long time SARA Top Band Round-Robin Rag Chew leader/facilitator Dave (WØOXB) recognized a reliable, always there participant and ad hoc assistant.

According to Dave, “Jim (WØELC) is a really good regular I can trust to run the session whenever I'm not available. He's consistently early to set things up for me. He knows the routine and my preferred way to run things.”

As Dave presented the award and thanked Jim for his reliable service, Dave commented “I'm truly pleased to have Jim as my assistant when I'm there and the official alternate when I'm away.”



## Round Robin Rag Chews - Participation

Some of you have wondered about the participation level of our on-air activities. Here's a brief look at the recent numbers:



### 75m (3.856 MHz)

Monday Mornings

9:00 am - ~10:00 (8:15 in spring & summer)

#### Recent Sampling Results:

8 Mondays & 62 Check-ins = **7.8 Average Check-ins per Session**

### 160m (1.966 MHz) - Top Band

Almost Daily (Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)

Some SARA members (Rebels!) also meet Tuesday & Thursday.

~8:00 pm - ~9:00 (Some are on the air ~7:30)

#### Recent Sampling Results:

46 Days & 463 Check-ins = **10.1 Average Check-ins per Session**

### What do we attribute good participation to?

- :: Regular routine
- :: Structured; not strict (structure keeps things orderly – almost no “Doubles”)
- :: Good “core” of regulars (the Usual Suspects)
- :: Friendly & Inviting to all (some not SARA members or locals)
- :: All are treated equal (Good “Give & Take” by all)
- :: Relatively fast paced - “Administrative Turns” occasionally needed!
- :: We solve technical problems, answer questions, have a Topic of Discussion



You might say it's the kind of place where most everyone knows your name.

All are welcome to join us ... be sure to check the front page of the newsletter for any changes in times, alternate frequencies, etc.

***Be sure to use that “Big Knob” on your radio in case we have to QSY a few kHz!***

# Ice Station WØJH

## Special Event on Frozen Lake Elmo (Feb. 15-17)

Event co-chairs Bob (WØGAF) and Dave (WØOXB) are coordinating the basic logistics (shelter, radio, logging computers antennas and scheduling operators). The event takes place at the QTH of our hosts Dave (KØAIF) and Anne (KEØVOB); beginning on the lake and shore, then continues across Lake Elmo Ave. N.



We'll be setting up and operating from a portable ice fishing, tent-type shelter and also from our self-contained trailer. The shelter will be located on the east side of the lake; the trailer, on dry(?) land, across the road near the parking area. The shelter and all gear will be taken down and stowed each evening. Very important after-hours critiquing/networking sessions will be held as required. (There's no word yet on brandy and/or mincemeat pie!)

Unfortunately our station on the lake will not be handicap-accessible (the terrain to the lake is very steep and slippery).

### Something New (YOTA)!

This year we are dedicating operating time for SARA youth to operate. Young members and anyone new to operating on HF are encouraged to participate. You can learn the "ropes" by watching and logging - then, when you're ready, you can grab the microphone.

### Interested in Learning/Operating Digital HF?

From the SARA trailer, a cozy, heated station can operate both digital and SSB modes. An operator and logger, using the Icom IC-7300 transceiver connected to a laptop, will be available for demonstration and hands-on instruction for visitors/onlookers.

### Dates / Times / Schedule:

February 15, 16, 17 (President's Day weekend)

- Saturday, 2/15: 10:00 am Setup, Operating until ~5:00 pm
- Sunday, 2/16: 10:00 am – ~5:00 pm
- Monday, 2/17: 10:00 am – ~5:00 pm
- 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
- Youth & newly licensed hams can operate when available

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

**Sound like fun ... don't wait.**

**Contact Bob or Dave to reserve your spot!**

*Visitors are welcome but for liability insurance reasons, all scheduled Ops must be SARA members.*

## Upcoming SARA Meetings & Events

*See Details in Newsletter*

- Jan. 11: Monthly Meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- Feb. 8: Monthly Meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- Feb. 15 - 17: Ice Station WØJH, Frozen Lake Elmo
- Feb. 27: Start of Technician License Classes, Stillwater Library
- Feb. 29: Skywarn Class, Stillwater Library
- March 14: Monthly Meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights

*Board Meetings are held Thursdays the week following Monthly Saturday Meetings at the Stillwater Public Library*

*Thursday Eye Ball QSO Parties are held weekly (6-8:00 pm) at the Stillwater Public Library*

**2020**

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

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 Make a difference ...  
**Have fun!**



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