



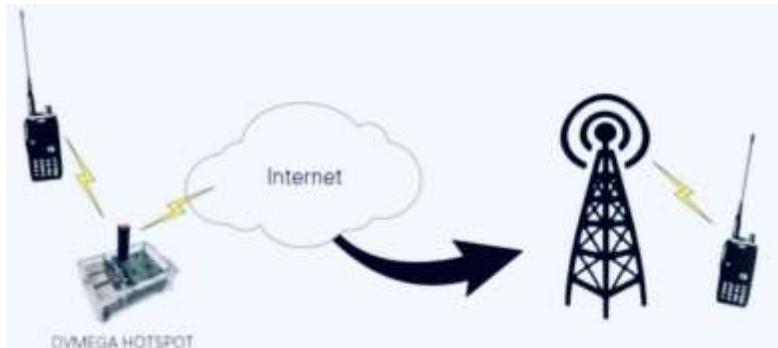
Signals from SARA

WØJH	©2020 The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association An ARRL Affiliate & Special Service Club www.radioham.org	February 2020
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Program: Digital Voice Hotspots Bob Jensen, WØGAF



Amateur Radio digital voice hotspots have become very popular in over the last few years. Join us at the SARA monthly meeting to find out why. In this discussion you will learn what hotspots are and how they work, why you might want one, and how to get started. We won't make you an expert, but we'll get you the information you need to start exploring these interesting and useful devices.



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

handiham.org
Ham radio for people with disabilities

Announcements

Monthly Meeting:
February 8, 2020; 09:00
[Boutwells Landing](#)
Gables Wing
Auditorium C (Lower Level)

Program: Digital Voice Hotspots; Bob, WØGAF

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!

Bandwidth from the President

Greetings from my shack, de Joe KCØOIO.

My thanks to all of you for your confidence and support of me as President for another term. I will continue to do my best to keep SARA vibrant and beneficial to our members. There always seems to be more ways to keep things interesting in this club.



Speaking of “club,” how would you define SARA? In his Second Century editorial in the January 2020 QST, then-ARRL CEO Howard Michel WB2ITX made the statement “... traditional clubs are not the future of clubs. Young people now join causes, not clubs.” That got many people thinking about their “club” and how it functions. I’ve had some discussion with Greg KØGW and others pondering the question “is SARA a traditional club?” We’ve come to the conclusion that SARA is beyond what Mr. Michel refers to as a traditional club. Although we have structure through our constitution and by-laws, we’ve managed to stay relevant and vibrant by going farther to engage our members. The weekly Eyeball QSO Party is often a full room, sometimes standing room only; we provide paths for people to earn their amateur radio license and then upgrade; we provide member assistance with antennas, radio installs, computer program support; Tech Topics and Skill nights; Radios in the Park; special event stations out on the ice of Lake Elmo, the plains of White Rock SD, and the shores of Lake Superior. We strive to have meeting program that are relevant to the times and technology of our hobby. Are we doing enough? What else could we be doing? What are your thoughts? Suggestions? Ideas? Let me know! Drop me a note at president@radioham.org.

Many thanks to Greg Widin KØGW for his years of service on our behalf as Dakota Division Vice Director, Dakota Division Director and lastly 1st Vice President of the ARRL. Greg did not seek reelection at the January ARRL Board meetings. The Board of Directors honored Greg by naming him an Honorary Vice President at the conclusion of his term as 1st VP. Jay Bellows KØQB closed out his service to the league as International Affairs Vice President at the same time. Jay also served as Dakota Division Vice Director and Division Director before stepping in the VP position he held. Jay was also honored as the Board named him an Honorary Vice President. Congratulations Greg and Jay! And thank you for your service and contributions for us and the ARRL. I have the privilege of joining Greg and Jay, and others, for Friday lunch every so often. I am proud to call them friends.

WØPIGG flew into my shack last month, looking for a new caretaker for the coming year! He’s made himself comfortable here and promises to get out once in a while, but he’s not sure when or where he’ll pop up. Keep an eye out for him flying through, probably when we least expect him!

The SARA Board and the repeater team are looking into the equipment and costs associated with adding a WIRES-X link to our System Fusion repeater. This feature will allow interconnectivity with other “rooms” such as MNWIS; HANDIHAMS; and others. Due to the location of our repeater, this will need to be done via a link station located offsite. We have an offer for a host location close by the repeater site. We’ll need to acquire a Fusion radio, the WIRES-X interface, power supply, and antenna. Watch for more news on this potential enhancement to our repeater.

I’ve found the software Gridtracker to be the perfect companion to WSJT-X. The capabilities of the program surpass other WSJT companion software such as JT-Alert. Starting with real-time mapping to track your grids worked/confirmed, to showing grid to grid QSOs in progress, a callable roster, and so much more, Gridtracker is a phenomenal program. I plan to be demonstrating the capabilities at an Eyeball QSO Party in the coming weeks.

I’m looking forward to the Feb 8th meeting where Bob WØGAF and others will enlighten us on Digital Voice Hotspots. 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 KCØOIO

Some Photos from SWEEP 2020

See others at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmKNpnUZ>



A whole lotta great stuff to exchange!



And the crowd goes wild!



Coonskin boots to go with Ray's headgear.



Mary gets a Big Boy toolbox.



Shel gets QRP tools.

**Zack OM, have you ever seen
Gourmet Microphone Odorier”
... garlic (Italian) scented?**



Keith, you wanta trade OM?



**Dan with
something.**



**Hey Rich,
I want that!**



**And Joe was so sure he'd
NOT be going home with
WØPIGG! (wrong!!)**



See other photos at:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmKNpnUZ>

2020 Officer Election Results

The campaign yard signs have been removed and the vote solicitation phone calls for SARA office positions have come to an end with the election at the January 11 monthly meeting.

Incumbents, except for the office of Secretary, had agreed to serve another term and had been nominated for re-election at the December meeting. Dave (N9JNQ) was nominated (and accepted) for the office of Secretary and as there were no additional candidates nominated at the January meeting, all of the officers who's terms were up for election plus JNQ Dave were elected unanimously. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer are all one year terms that currently are filled until the January 2021 meeting. Joe (KCØOIO), Bob (WØGAF), and Rich (ADØSN), were all re-elected to the same office each held in 2019. Dave (N9JNQ) is serving his first year as Secretary.

SARA has two Directors that are elected for two year terms which expire on alternating years. Incumbent Doug (N9TOW) was challenged by Zack (AAØU) but after a close, hard-fought race, TOW Doug was re-elected and will serve until January 2022. The other Director position is not up for election until January 2021; Dan (KEØIYF) continues in the position.

The office of SARA Trustee is an appointed position by the SARA Board and Shel NØDRX was re-appointed to that position at the January 16 Board Meeting.

Oscilloscope Workshop

At the January 30 Eye Ball QSO Party, Dan (KEØIYF) gave an informative presentation and led a discussion on oscilloscopes.

With standing room only, some members brought their scopes and signal generators.



TNX to Dan, everyone learned a thing or two on how to use them.

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.



We close out January with a few short-lived outages at WAØTDA and WØZSW due to home networking problems at my QTH, Windows updates, and updates to the RCForb software. With new network hardware in place, we are confident of more solid internet performance. February still sports long nights, which means bands like 160, 80, and 40 meters are good for long-haul contacts all night and into the morning hours. If you are looking for WAS on those bands, now's the time. By March, we will be seeing substantially more daylight, and that means higher absorption and more static as thunderstorms fire up in the southern states. 73, Pat, wa0tda@arrl.net

Membership

SARA newsletters from November through January all have had reminders for 2020 membership dues and the January edition had a list of 80 members whom were current for 2020. Please refer back to the January newsletter for that list. Dues for 2020 have since been received & processed for KDØWGH and WØMCQ, bringing SARA to a total of 82 members. If you are not among those that are listed, you are not a current member. At this point only current members are on the roster and expired members will be dropped from the SARA email list prior to the February monthly meeting. Membership information and application form is available on the radioham.org website and can be mailed to either of the addresses listed on the application, or given to the Treasurer at the next monthly meeting.

Changes in membership info or membership questions should be sent to:
Trustee@radioham.org

VE Exam

SARA volunteer examiners will be conducting an exam session to coincide with conclusion of upcoming licenses for Technician class. Exams are scheduled to begin at 6pm at Boutwells Landing on April 23, 2020. Exams for all 3 license classes will be offered and as the new question pool for Extra class takes effect on July 1, 2020, I suggest anyone whom may be thinking of upgrading to Extra should do so prior to the end of June.

Shel NØDRX

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



The Adventures of WØPIGG

Episode 4



Well – its official folks. My career in local politics has brought me to the Presidential residence. You know; over the past year I have been hobnobbing with Randy, KDØVKB; the former Mayor of White Rock. So ... as of the SWEEP event; I am moving to the Presidential palace with Joe, KCØ0I0. I promise, as Presidential advisor – my new self-appointed title – I will not engage in any pork barrel politics!

But ... I've been up to big things since my last newsletter posting. In August I got out to White Rock for the tri-state event. Hey; Randy even let me drive most of the way. And guess what – I was never accused of being a road hog.

At the event I got a choice seat on the radio operations table. In fact – I even got on the air for more QSOs than Randy.....who, I think, only made one contact before a bunch of old friends dropped by.

Over the summer, I've also been studying code. I want to get proficient at CW so I can be considered an old – or would it be aged – ham? I tried a paddle key – but using my nose – all that head swaying back and forth made me dizzy! Then I borrowed an old FW Johnson straight key from Randy and that worked. I just hope I don't develop a ham-handed style!

Oh – one more thing. Since my move to the new QTH, I've applied for a vanity call sign. I hope to soon get the official news and become OIO-oink.

73, WØPIGG, we'll be QRT on your final.

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.

King of Clubs - 1

By Patrick Tice, wa0tda@arrl.net



Photo: Payload with APRS prior to flying by WX balloon as SARA partners with U of M students to provide tracking data and assistance.

In January I mused about the WB2ITX editorial in QST that had mentioned ham radio clubs. The gist of the author's take on clubs was that ARRL would continue to offer clubs like ours support but noted that the future for young people was a bit different:

"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."

I've been thinking about that for a while, and while I can't say I think it's wrong, it does lack nuance.

Here's what I mean:

The term "young people" is relative. If we are talking about school-age children, we are in "organized activity" territory. Schools have clubs because they provide a plat-

form for the kinds of organized activities deemed to be age-appropriate for students. Outside schools, activities like Scouting provide structure and guidance, and are not called “clubs” per se, but do provide similar platforms for organized activities. By the time the kiddos enter middle school, the activities provide even more options. The school newspaper/blog/podcast/video teams, arts, music, books, sports, drama - all very club-like activities that cannot be in any way described as “causes”.

This doesn’t mean that causes don’t exist in parallel with clubs in schools. But I am going to call “BS” on the notion that clubs and young people are parting ways. Take a look at the Stillwater Area Junior High Schools club activities:

<https://stillwaterschools.org/schools/junior-high-schools/stillwater-junior-high-school/activities-clubs>

Causes? Sure! Older students can discover their passion for a cause. Take a look at this Minnpost article “How Minnesota students are combating climate change, one school building at a time” featuring students from Stillwater HS:

<https://www.minnpost.com/education/2020/01/how-minnesota-students-are-combating-climate-change-one-school-building-at-a-time/>

My point is that both exist in parallel, and there can be considerable overlap between the two as sometimes the necessities of organizing and communicating with other members of your club/cause in support of forwarding whatever activity in which you share a common interest demand a more club-like environment and sometimes not.

Perhaps diving full on into causes is more likely during one’s university years, driven by exposure to so many new people and ideas. But even then, clubs still thrive and provide the organization and structure for specific activities that can hardly be described as cause-worthy - chess club, photography club, astronomy club, maker club, fraternities & sororities, cycling... Can you really describe any of these activities as causes? I just don’t see it. Further, people who join clubs can be just as passionate and driven by their interests as those who join causes. Ham radio is a big tent that accommodates many more focused areas of interest; DX, mode-specific operation, designing and building, fellowship, life-long learning, contesting, and many more. Clubs for those specific areas exist and have done well.

Causes cannot replace clubs.

Next time we will take a look at clubs that stumble and clubs that thrive. Be sure to read the “Bandwidth” in this month’s issue!

73 - Pat, wa0tda@arrl.net

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

- 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
- April 11: Monthly Meeting; Boutwells Landing, Oak Park Heights
- April 23: VE Exam; 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

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

SARA Needs YOU!

Get involved ...
 Make a difference ...
Have fun!



www.radioham.org

Facebook: SARA - Stillwater Amateur Radio Association

