



Signals from SARA



WØJH

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An ARRL Affiliate & Special Service Club

February
2021

www.radioham.org

Program: ARRL Minnesota Section

Manager Bill Mitchell AEØEE



MN Section Manager Bill Mitchell AEØEE will visit the February meeting with an introduction and update on his vision and efforts as the ARRL Minnesota Section Manager. Bill became the Section Manager Oct 1st, succeeding longtime MN SM Skip Jackson KSØJ. Affiliated Club Coordinator Holly Cox KØHAC will also join the presentation. As Section Manager, Bill represents a fresh take on the ARRL Field Operations and amateur radio in the state of Minnesota.

Many of you will recognize Bill from his previous visits with SARA for presentations on the VKØEK Heard Island DXpedition and Contesting 101. Bill was first licensed in December, 2012. He frequently operates portable from locations all around Minnesota, and is an avid contester, DXer, and DXpeditioner (VKØEK Heard Island). He is a past President of the Bloomington Amateur Radio Association and the Twin City DX Association; a member of the Minnesota Wireless Association contesters club; and the Northern Lights Radio Society. Bill is a frequent participant in ARRL VHF/UHF contests as part of a rover team with Matt KØBBC and Dave WØZF, activating grid squares as they travel through MT, ND, SD, and other states.

For this meeting, forget about driving and instead fire up your computer. Due to the ongoing pandemic and related health & safety guidelines and protocols for senior care facilities, Boutwells Landing remains unavailable for public use. Boutwells Landing staff foresees that will be the case into 2021. We will therefore continue to hold the monthly Saturday meeting virtually using the SARA WEBEX conference room. Meetings will begin at 9:00 AM., but Joe, KCØOIO, will open the WEBEX room around 8:15 AM for "Morning Coffee" each month.

Announcements

The regular monthly meeting returns on February, 2021 via Webex.

Meeting: MN Section Manager Bill Mitchell AEØEE. Current Members will receive a meeting invitation via email from Joe, KCØOIO.

SARA's virtual monthly meetings are open to all.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/y2wgpl6z> to join the meeting.

SARA On the Air

Phone Round Robin Ragchews & Net (All Times are Local - Central)

- > Daily "Lunch Room" Crew: 12:00 - ? SARA 2m Repeater* ... Weekdays
- > Daily Top Band Crew: 20:00; 1.966 MHz LSB or USB +/- QRM (alternates: 21.316 +/- MHz, 50.166 MHz)
- > Monday 75m Crew: 09:00; 3.856 MHz LSB +/- QRM
- > Tuesday (TMT): 19:00; SARA 2m Repeater*
- > Wednesday Informal Net: 21:00; SARA 2m Repeater*
- > Sunday Digital Net: 19:00; 3.584.15 MHz USB (500-1000 Hz) on waterfall (Mode announced via email)

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

*SARA 2m Repeater: 147.060 MHz; Positive Offset; DCS/DTCS 026 Normal)

Bandwidth from the President

Greetings from my shack, de Joe KCØOIO.

First, thank you all for your continued confidence in my abilities as president. It is indeed an honor to serve. The rest of the SARA leadership for 2021 is Vice President Bob Jensen WØGAF; Secretary Dave Iverson N9JNQ; Treasurer Rich Smith ADØSN; Director 2020-2021 Doug Farrell N9TOW, Director 2021-2022 Zack Zaccagnini AAØU and Trustee Shel Mann NØDRX.



As I begin my 7th term as president, I wonder what the future holds for SARA. The past year has been a challenge for all of us. Yet, I do believe that SARA has strengthened our position as one of the best amateur radio clubs in the area. We have experienced growth in membership, with 112 members as of Feb 5. SARA quickly embraced the virtual gathering concept via Webex. We offer some sort of virtual gathering such as the Technical Topic Thursday, Ask the Elmer Q&A Session, training sessions, social nights, and our monthly meetings. These offerings have proven popular and continue to attract attention to SARA. Our level of virtual activities is noteworthy as another local club is looking to start weekly virtual gatherings as well.

The Education & Training team adapted and reconfigured our license classes into an online offering, with the General Class license classes in progress now. We will likely offer another online Technician Class later this spring.

Our Special Events “Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald” and “Ice(-olation) Station WØJH” successfully adopted a “Distributed Operating Stations” model to be able continue those traditions during this pandemic. The 2020 Edmund Fitzgerald special event saw a record number of QSOs. And we will see how the Ice-olation Station does this month. The concept proved so successful for the Fitzgerald event that we will be looking to continue with a hybrid plan once we are able to return a team to Split Rock Lighthouse State Park with onsite and distributed operating stations.

Looking forward my hope is that we will soon be able to gather in-person and continue to strengthen SARA. Although it may yet be some time before we can return to Boutwells Landing and the Stillwater Public Library for meetings, we have options for resuming some sort of gathering outdoors once the weather warms. Sitting here in my shack writing this on the coldest morning of the winter so far leads me to the thoughts of warmer weather to come. I intend to resume our Thursday evening Eyeball QSO Party with Radios in the Park at Valley View Park as soon as weather allows.

My goal this year is to define the present and future of the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association. SARA is a general interest amateur radio club dedicated to advancement of the amateur radio service through promotion, education, support, and service. SARA has long been recognized as an ARRL Special Service Club, currently one of just 3 out of 46 ARRL affiliated clubs in the MN Section. Offerings such as license classes, VE testing, member assistance program and new ham resource group, technical training, operating activities, and support of the Handiham remote base program – as well as an engaged membership – allows SARA to continue to uphold the standards of a Special Service Club.

The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association is your association. You help define what SARA is and what SARA does. Myself or any of the SARA officers welcome your input in the present and future of SARA. Please drop any of us notes with any comments, questions or suggestions at any time. You can email the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee using their title with @radioham.org as the address. The Directors can be emailed with their callsign @radioham.org.

SARA's monthly Saturday meeting continues to be held virtually using the SARA WEBEX conference room. Meetings will begin at 9:00 AM. The WEBEX room opens around 8:15 AM for "Morning Coffee" social gathering. The meetings are open to all members and visitors alike. The SARA room is at

<https://stillwateramateurradioassociation.my.webex.com/meet/w0jh>

New MN Section Manager Bill Mitchell AEØEE and MN Section Affiliated Club Coordinator Holly Cox KØHAC, will join us this month with a look forward in the ARRL Minnesota Section.

I wish you all well. Stay Safe – Stay Healthy!

73 es CUL de KCØOIO

A couple of milestones:

Skip Jackson, KSØJ Honored with ARRL Knight Distinguished Service Award

The ARRL Board of Directors awarded retired ARRL Minnesota Section Manager Richard "Skip" Jackson, KSØJ, the ARRL Knight Distinguished Service Award. During his 16-year tenure, Jackson "has actively promoted ARRL activities in his Section, including visiting hundreds of Field Day operations over the years, represented the League at numerous hamfests, and attended countless club meetings in his state, promoting the League," the Board's resolution read. The Board credited Jackson's leadership for developing "a strong working cadre of volunteers" in the Section, calling him "a model to ARRL Section Managers across the country as a strong supporter of ARRL and its activities."

The Award's namesake is longtime veteran New Mexico Section Manager Joe T. Knight, W5PDY, who was the first recipient of the award in 2003. The Award carries a \$250 honorarium and a plaque.

Congratulations, Skip!

Washington County ARES EC John Regan KAØHYR retires...

John KAØHYR stepped down as Emergency Coordinator for ARES in Washington County January 31 after 12 years of service. He has led the development of a strong relationship with the Washington County Emergency Management staff. The position of EC is often a challenging job. John's tireless work, his passion for public service, and his background in education and administration have laid a solid foundation for ARES in Washington County.

I was EC when John became active in ARES, and I fondly recall his enthusiasm when he made the effort to pick up his ARES ID before he left on a lengthy summer road trip.

Thank you, John, and enjoy your retirement!

de KCØOIO

Recent Equipment Donations

As has been discussed at the recent Membership Meeting, the family of Silent Key Jerry Klemm KBØOHI, a former member of SARA, generously donated Jerry's ham shack to SARA for use and/or sale. SARA thanks the Klemm family for their generosity. We also received a nice donation of wire antennas, feed line, and antenna ropes from John Voxland WØSEI. Thanks much John! Many of these latter items will be useful for our club's M.A.P antenna-raising efforts, and have already been transferred to Dave WØOXB to be put to good use.

We have had an opportunity to inventory Jerry's items and are happy to report that a number of the items will be incorporated into the New Ham Resource Team equipment loaner program. This includes a complete HF station, save for an antenna of choice. The KBØOHI Memorial Station includes:

- Yaesu FT-840 multi-mode HF base station rig
- Yaesu MH-31 hand microphone
- Kenwood PS-430 20 amp power supply
- Barker & Williamson (B&W) Viewstar VS1500A antenna tuner
- Twenty-five foot length of RG-8X with PL259 connectors

Contact any of the members of the New Ham Resource Team if you have an interest in borrowing this station.

The remaining items are being made available to SARA members at a “free will/pay what it is worth to you” donation to be deposited into the SARA account. Due to COVID, we can't bring the items to a monthly meeting for sale and distribution as we have done in the past. Fortunately, we have the SARA Signals Newsletter “classifieds page” at our disposal. So here is a list of the available items, and if you have any interest, shoot an email to secretary@radioham.org and I will set it aside with your name on it. We can arrange a hand-off for some time in the future. I have tested most of the items, and have noted what seems to run, as well as noting the condition of the item. If you would like a photo, let me know and I will be happy to oblige.

- Icom 27H mobile 2 meter w/ HM-23 mic** – tested/working, fair condition.
- Icom IC-T7A HT w/ charger, speaker mic, lighter charger** – tested/working, fair condition, antenna damaged/bent.
- Yaesu FRB-757 amplifier relay w/cable** – not tested, good condition;
- Timewave DSP-9 digital noise filter w/ cable** – tested/working, fair condition;

MFJ-704 Low Pass Filter – untested, excellent condition;
Pyramid Gold Series PS-14K power supply 12a/14a surge – tested/working, fair condition;
CDE Model Ham-II/CD44 rotator control box – limited testing, does turn on, fair condition;
MFJ-557 Practice CW Key and Oscillator – tested/working, good condition;
Radio Shack Speaker No. 21-549A w/o mounting bracket 8ohm/5w, with cord – tested/working, fair condition;
Standard Horizon CMP-240 speaker mic, plug modified for HT – tested/working, condition fair, missing manufacturers name plate;

MFJ-461 Pocket CW Reader – tested/ non-working (does not “hear” code and translate either through speaker or audio jack), fair condition.
Unidentified controller with cable, possibly for antenna tower – untested/ does turn on, no identifying markings.

Again, thanks to the family of Jerry KBØOHI SK and to John WØSEI for the generous donations.

Prepared by N9JNQ
12/20/2020



Remember the old operating cabinet from Courage St. Croix? This was taken at the Handiham office when it was out at Camp Courage in Maple Lake.

SARA Special Event

WØJH Ice-olation Station

February 13, 14 & 15



This year, in keeping with COVID-19 social distancing requirements, we will operate from our individual QTHs ... not from frozen Lake Elmo as in the past. This marks the 8th consecutive year, the club is sponsoring and conducting this Special Event.

Although all SARA members may participate, we strongly suggest those with Special Event or Field Day operating experience take part. By taking charge of “pile ups” where multiple stations are calling at the same time, it’s likely you could have 5 or more stations calling you at once! However, if you think you’d like to give it a try ... please let Joe (KCØOIO), Bob (WØGAF) or Dave (WØOXB) know you’re interested. We can give you some pointers and steer you toward some times and bands that the rate of contacts is not as hectic.

General

We will again use a “Distributed Operating System” (DOS) format, as we did for the Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald special event. Each operator will be scheduled to participate from their own QTH. Each Op will have selected agreed upon time(s) when and where they can operate. Each Op must operate in accordance with their license class and use the club’s call sign, WØJH. We will have multiple stations simultaneously using the same call sign, operating on different bands.

When, Where & What

- Days: Feb. 13, 14, 15 (Saturday – Monday)
- Times: 0800 – 1759 local; 1400 – 2359 UTC (some variations depending on mode & band)
- Bands/Frequencies: Anywhere (Published: 80m (3.860), 40m (7.260), 20m (14.260), 15m 21.360))
- Modes: SSB, CW & Digital



Scheduling

- Determine when you can operate, what mode(s) & bands
- Sign-up will be done online (1 hour shift increments are commonly recommended):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ca4ac2ba0ffc43-iceolation>

Logging

- Ops are requested to use computer-logging programs (N3FJP ALog or others) with ADIF export capabilities
- For questions about computer logging, contact Joe, Bob or Dave about recommendations, details, etc.

Notes:

- An Operator Info “Cheat Sheet” will be sent to all those signed up to operate on SignUpGenius.
- If you don’t plan to operate ... join us on the air!
 - Make contact with one of our stations.
 - Try 80m for local contacts; try 40m or maybe 20m to connect with Brad, VE3MXJ (as WØJH/VE3).
 - Listen for us making contacts all over the world!
- If you have any questions, contact one of us: Joe (KCØOIO), Bob (WØGAF) or Dave (WØOXB).



THE SARA FLICKER SITE



Our Flickr site is an archived pictured history of many SARA events in the past. At any time, all of the 2000+ photos are available for you to peruse. The shortcut will take you to the album section which organizes each album by event and date. We have photos of club events going back to 2012.

For new members and those of you who have not saved our Flickr website shortcut please click on the following shortcut or copy/paste it in the address block in your browser:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/stillwater_arc/albums

Prior to the Flickr site, photos taken at events might have appeared in our newsletter following the event but then were not accessible. All of the photos on the Flickr site have been taken by many of our members who forwarded them to me after an event for posting on the Flickr site.

When attending an event and taking photos, please consider sharing them with the members. Just forward a copy via email to ag0h@radioham.org. I'll merge them with others that I receive from our members for that event and upload them to the site in an album (titled under the name of the event and date).

The pictures on our Flickr site are not viewable by the public from the Flickr main site. So be sure and use the above shortcut. When we upload the photos after an event, a broadcast email is sent to all club members notifying that they are available and we follow that notice with the clickable link.

Enjoy the views of the past – 73, Keith Miller - AGØH

Free Books

Shel Mann, NØDRX

I'm continuing the tedious process of tidying up the ham shack library and the books in the accompanying pictures are about to leave the premises. Obviously these have spent considerable time with me, so some will have outdated info that will be useful for historical purposes, but others may still be of use if interested in some older modes. Contact Shel NØDRX: n0drx@hotmail.com





ARRL Affiliation

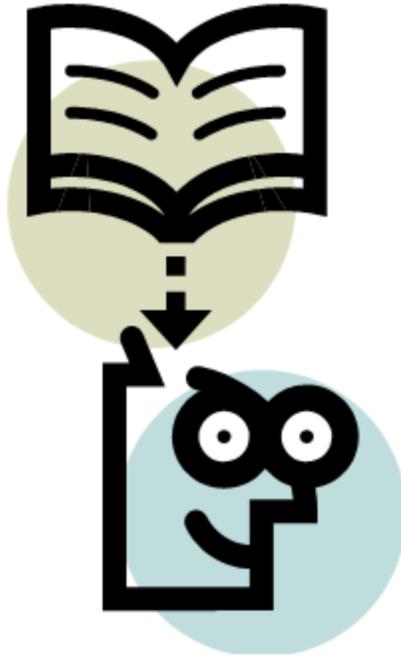
Shel Mann, NØDRX

Virtually all ham radio clubs in the United States utilize the ARRL for information and guidance. Whenever possible, most clubs will also choose to become an “ARRL Affiliated Club”. A requirement to be an ARRL Affiliated Club is that a minimum of 50% of the club voting membership must also be a member of the ARRL. As an ARRL Affiliated Club, we need to file an annual report that includes our claimed number of ARRL members to retain our active affiliation status, which is why we ask for that info on our newest membership application form. There are currently a total of 46 ARRL Affiliated Clubs in MN listed on the ARRL website.



The ARRL website also shows that SARA is one of only three clubs of these clubs that are also ARRL Special Service Clubs. The St. Cloud Radio Club and the Maple Grove Radio Club are the only others in MN. To qualify to be an SSC, a club needs to provide service and activity in various areas. While many such activities may appear to be a goal beyond an achievable level, there are certainly other clubs that could readily qualify to be a SSC. To continue to be a SSC requires a renewal every two years and the most recent SARA SSC renewal was recently submitted and approved within two days. SARA has been an ARRL Affiliated Club since 12/30/1997 and a Special Service Club since 4/15/2002.





Amateur Radio Technician License Study Class - February 2021

Get started in a fun hobby where you can communicate around the world or across town. This class is sponsored by the Maple Grove Radio Club - a service oriented club serving the Northwest suburbs by providing assistance to public safety, hospitals, parades, fun runs, bike tours, and antique car runs to mention a few.

This is a study class where we will assist you with your learning. That means that you are expected to study between classes.

When: Monday's starting February 8th. Class usually runs ten weeks.

Time: 6:45 - 9:15 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: \$10 registration fee due first night of class. You will also need to purchase the ARRL textbook which is titled The ARRL

Ham Radio License Manual, Fourth Edition for about \$30.

Details and a PayPal invoice will be emailed to you after you register for the class.

To Register or get answers to your questions: email registration@mnyarc.org

Please include your name, Address, and phone contact information as well as your email address.

The Technician License exam will be offered online after the last week of class for an additional fee of \$15.

To learn more about the Maple Grove Radio Club, please visit: www.k0lrc.org

Benton Jackson, K0BHJ

President, Maple Grove Radio Club

Section Emergency Coordinator, MN ARES

Board Member, Metro Skywarn

Remote Base Station Update - All good in February!

by Patrick Tice, wa0tda@arrl.net



Stations WØEQO, WØZSW, and WAØTDA are all up and running.

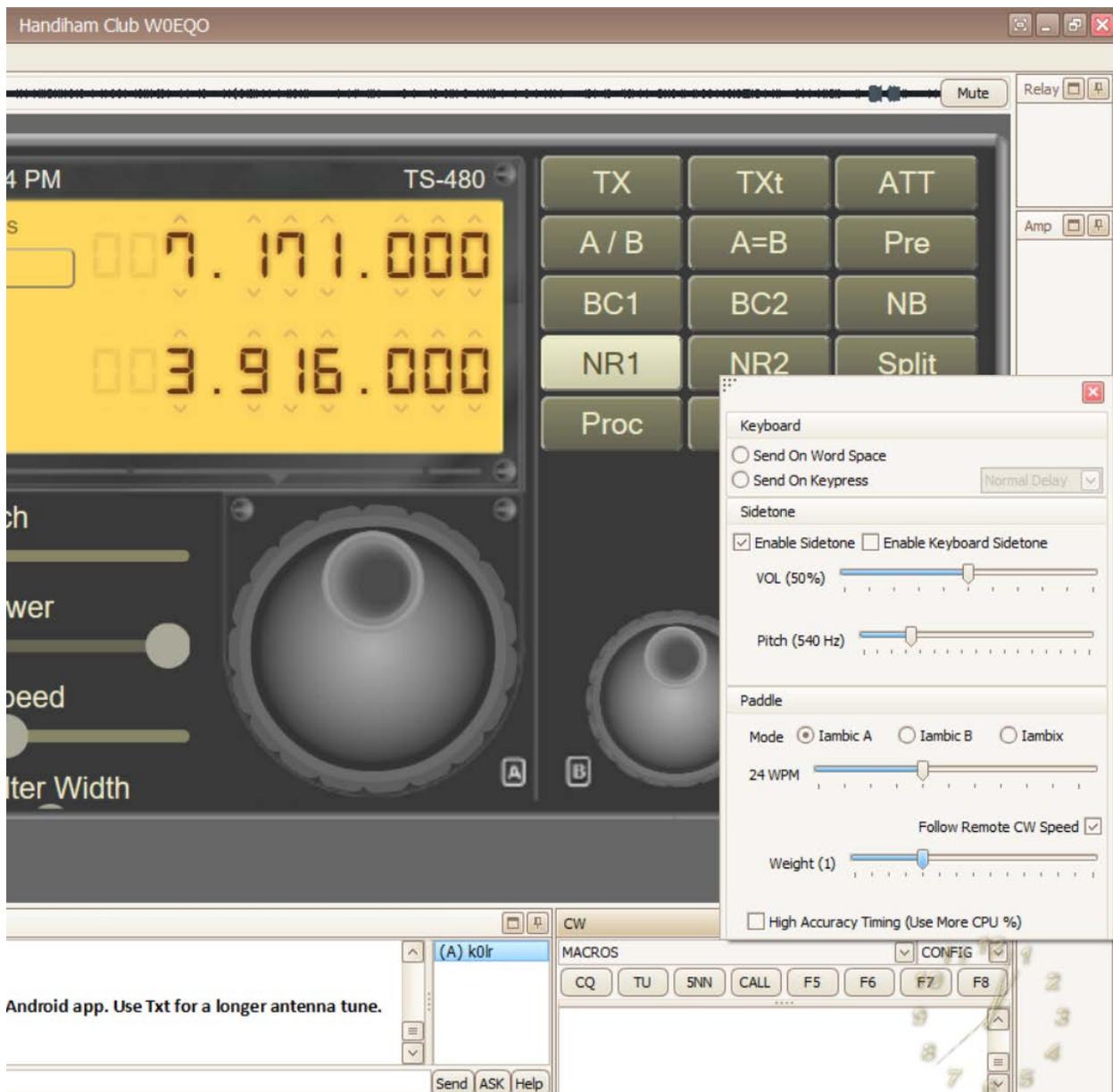
There were no significant outages at WØEQO and WØZSW during January, but WAØTDA experienced several hours of downtime in mid-month caused by Windows update.

If a station acts strangely when you log on, please let me know. One symptom of a Windows update that is only partially completed on the station's host computer and is waiting for an administrator action is that the station

allows you to connect and see the interface, but is unresponsive to some or all commands.

Bug in RCForb version 0.9x affects CW speed settings - Lyle Koehler, KØLR

I logged onto W0EQO, having been alerted to a CW setting anomaly. It was set for 7171 kHz and everything seemed to be working properly, except for the CW speed slider. I found the same thing that my friend Tom did -- I could move the slider or type in the desired speed, but as soon as I went to transmit it would jump back to 24 WPM. It looks like there's a bug in the client software. I was able to fix it by clicking on Config (in the upper right corner of the CW window) and checking the box that says **Follow Remote CW Speed**. The image below shows what the right side of the screen looked like when I did that on my computer. I don't see any reason why checking that box should work, because it should only be active if you're using a set of paddles, but apparently it did.



You might give that a try if you are experiencing similar control issues with CW speed settings in the Windows RCForb app.

73 from KØLR

February QST NA2AA Column: Remote operating gets a mention as a way to include people with disabilities inputting on and staying on the air

I was delighted to spot an endorsement of remote operation as a way to boost inclusiveness for people with disabilities in ARRL CEO David Minster's Second Century column on page nine of the February 2021 QST. This is only a portion of a renewed commitment by the League to serve our fellow radio amateurs who would like to know more about accessibility features of new

radio gear and accessories, have more direct access to ARRL publications, and learn more about SDR and other new technologies that will open up opportunities to enjoy Amateur Radio even more!

Power Off button added to WØZSW station



The POWER button has been activated on the WØZSW station interface in version 0.9x of the RCForb software. Please turn the IC-7300 power off when you are finished using the station.

The WØZSW radio, an Icom IC-7300, supports power on/off while maintaining handshaking with the host PC, so we have added the optional POWER button to the client software interface. Please use the POWER button to turn the radio on when you begin a session and off when you are finished.

Good luck & good DX in 2021 and have fun with the radios!

73 - Pat wa0tda@arrl.net



One more membership reminder

A membership form can be found on the radioham.org website and can be mailed along with your check made out to SARA, to the preferred address of: SARA, 1618 Pine St W, Stillwater, MN 55082. Dues for regular membership is \$20 and associate membership is \$10. Having an amateur radio license is a requirement to be a regular member.

Please send any questions as well as updates to your membership or license status to:

Trustee@radioham.org



Go to Radioham.org, then ABOUT, then [Membership Application](#). The PDF application has information about where dues payments should be mailed and how checks should be made out. If you are joining us for the first time, fill out the application and return with your dues. If you are simply mailing in a check, this is also a good time to let us know about any changes of address.

Thanks and we hope to hear you on the air and at upcoming meetings!

Upcoming events

- SARA Lunchroom - M - F Noon to ?
- Thursday, February 11 "Using the MFJ-259/269 Antenna Analyzers" Martin Jue K5FLU (founder and owner of MFJ Enterprises) SARA members by WebEx invitation.
- February Meeting: Saturday, February 13, 2021 - Virtual meeting via Webex
- Ice-olation Station WØJH - February 13-15, 2021
- March 2: "First Tuesday". Operate with emergency power if you can.
- March 2021 SIGNALS article submission deadline: Sunday March 7, 2021.
- March Meeting: Saturday, March 13, 2021 - Virtual meeting via Webex
- Daylight Time begins: Sunday, March 14, 2021
- Spring Equinox - Saturday, March 20 - WooHoo!
- Saturday, March 20 VE Session - SEMARC - Check http://www.semarc.org/P7_VE.htm for complete list.

SARA 2021 Officers

Joe Heitzinger, KCØOIO - President

Bob Jensen, WØGAF - Vice President

Dave Iverson, N9JNQ - Secretary

Rich Smith, ADØSN - Treasurer

Zack Zaccagnini, AAØU - 2021 & 2022 Director

Doug Farrell, N9TOW - 2020 & 2021 Director

Note: The SARA Trustee officer is an appointed position; chosen by the elected officers

Trustee: Shel Mann, NØDRX

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](http://Radioham.org)
Radioham.org

A Note from the Editors

This edition of the 2020 -2021 Signals season is produced on a new platform, Google Docs. It replaces Microsoft Publisher, which has served us well for many years, because it has new features that make editing easier and more universally accessible. We can now accept your article submissions as .docx (Word-compatible) files complete with embedded graphs and photos, something that was a real headache in the old system. Anyone can use their word processing software to create a compatible doc file for submission.

Formats for submission of articles

- Microsoft Word or compatible formats, with file extensions .doc, .docx, etc. Embedded pictures and graphics are okay (and preferred) in this format.
- Text files, either plain text or rich text; .txt, .rtf, etc. **It's easy to just create your document and send it to wa0tda@gmail.com as an attachment if you like.**
- **If you have been using Dropbox to submit in the past, you may continue to do so.**

More about Google Docs

Google Docs also employs advanced AI to recognize errors, going beyond simply finding spelling errors. Editing the newsletter happens in real time, with everything being keyboarded also being saved on a cloud server. Documents can be set with permissions for multiple editors, and it is easy to create copies on the cloud server to experiment with layout or to just work on a copy while preserving the original. Since everything is web-based, any computer or device capable of use as a writing tool can edit as long as the internet is available. It is as easy to edit with Linux or Apple as it is with Windows. No specialized publishing software is needed. The final copy can be converted to the universal format PDF, also completely accomplished by Google Docs in the cloud.

