



Signals from SARA



WØJH

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An ARRL Affiliate & Special Service Club
www.radioham.org

December
2021

December Meeting - Gift Exchange

SARA White Elephant Exchange Party (SWEEP) Saturday, December 11

Don't miss the ever-popular, always fun SWEEP! There are plenty of laughs and lots of surprises. Don't be a DUMBO ... make plans to attend the December meeting.



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

1. Clean your shack of something(s) you no longer need or want!
(Make room for more stuff!)
2. Go home with something more useful/desirable than you started with!
3. Have FUN with guaranteed SURPRISES!
(TMI Alert: 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 should be something related to Amateur Radio, in a broad sense, that's maybe collecting dust in your Shack. It may be something you no longer use/need; and that someone else could use. The more you bring; the more you can leave with. (You can bring up to 4 gifts.) If you don't have a "White Elephant" you're willing to part with, then buy something with a value of ~\$10. (Maybe a trip to Ax-man Surplus is appropriate?!)

Numbers are put into a SARA cap, equal to the number of gifts brought.

Announcements

The regular monthly meeting returns on December 11, 2021 in person and via Webex.

Meeting: Current Members will receive a meeting invitation via email from Joe, KCØOIO.

SARA's virtual monthly meetings are open to all. Go to

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

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)**

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.

That 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 with the description.)

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!")

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 through 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 for you! From past experiences, you may NOT work out well!!!

ALL SWEEP items must be taken from Boutwells Landing when the meeting is over.

9:20 AM SARA Monthly Meeting at Boutwells Landing - How to Attend

The SARA monthly 2nd Saturday meetings are a hybrid in-person/WEBEX meeting. We meet in-person in Auditorium A at Boutwells Landing. The meeting is also live streamed via the SARA Webex Virtual meeting room at . We are working out some kinks in the livestream audio, but it was much better with wireless mics and the mixer board now in use.

COVID protocols in place at Boutwells include:

- 1: Masks are recommended (subject to change) in common areas. they may be removed in the auditorium if the wearer chooses. Please follow Boutwell's mask advisory posted at the entrance. Be prepared to wear a mask.
- 2: You must enter at the Gables entrance and be screened at the reception desk
- 3: Screening will involve having temperature checked, and registering with name, address & phone
- 4: No wandering about the facility, but go directly to Auditorium-A

All pretty much as we have done in the past, except for the temperature check and registration, which is like what we all do when checking in for many appointments these days. Could be a slight bottleneck if many people come in at the same time, but a small price to get back some segment of normality.

The program/presenter will now lead the meeting with the business session to follow.

Meetings will begin at 9:20 AM. The meetings are open to all members and visitors alike.

The 2nd Saturday Breakfast continues at Perkins Restaurant 2050 Frontage Rd in Stillwater. Gathering time is 7:30 AM, but some arrive a little early.

Bandwidth from the President

Greetings from my shack, de Joe KCØOIO.

December's monthly meeting will feature the return of the popular SARA White Elephant Exchange and the infamous "flying pig." After two years, who can remember where the pig resides these days? Start selecting now, we all have something to clear out of the shack. A White Elephant to you could prove useful to someone else.



Nomination of Officers for 2022

As stated in our by-laws, nominations for the officers are held at the December meeting and elections held at the January meeting of SARA. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected annually. Directors serve 2 year terms, with one director position elected each year. The director term up for election this year will run through 2023. The current slate of officers: President Joe KCØOIO, Vice President Bob WØGAF, Secretary Dave N9JNQ, and Treasurer Rich ADØSN have all expressed their willingness to continue. Director Doug N9TOW is not seeking another term, however at least one candidate has been identified.

Ice Station WØJH 2022 - Save the Dates!

Ice Station WØJH is planned to return to the shores of Lake Elmo the Presidents Day weekend February 19, 20, and 21, 2022. More to come as we get closer to the Special Event Station weekend.

And finally, since we are closing in on 2022...

2022 SARA Member Dues Reminder

Membership in the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association runs from Jan 1 - Dec 31. You may renew or extend your membership at any time.

Annual Dues are \$20/year for a regular membership, and \$10/year for associate membership. Family memberships begin at \$30 for two family members and \$10 for each additional family member.

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

73 es CUL de KCØOIO

Dr. Bob Heil (K9EID) Talks Off the Cuff



When we hams think of Heil Sound, we think of microphones for our hobby. You say “Heck, it’s no big deal to make microphones.” But you’d be surprised. An icon of Amateur Radio was with SARA for our December Tech Topic Thursday. TNX to Zoom and online capabilities, Bob Heil (K9EID) spent over 2 hours with us.

Some of what he shared with us, about Heil Sound and himself in an excellent, down-to-earth presentation:

- Almost accidental interest in Amateur Radio
- Early 6m operating accomplishments
- Passion for improving sound systems
- Making connections with Amateur Radio, Communications and Audio Industry leaders
- Working with big-name musicians and performing/recording artists
- Learning the keys to good, intelligible, powerful audio ... Articulation at 2.5 kHz
- Being recognized in Amateur Radio and Broadcast industries



Bob Heil was born in 1940 in Illinois. He became a proficient theater organ musician at a young age, beginning to perform at various local restaurants at the age of 14. At 15, he became house player for the Wurlitzer theater organ in the Fox Theater in St. Louis. During that time, he learned how to tune the thousands of pipes in that great Wurlitzer. It was the platform that taught Heil how to listen - mentally dissect discrete tones which became so important throughout his several audio/sound careers. In his teens he also became an avid Amateur Radio operator, and began designing and

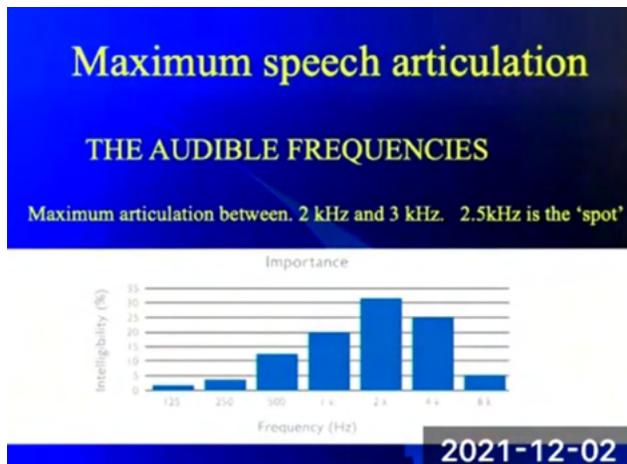
building homemade transmitters, amplifiers, and antenna systems.

Over the years, it was his collaborating and sharing ideas with industry leaders like Collins, Hallicrafters, Bell Telephone, Direct TV, Klipsch, Icom, Yaesu and Kenwood that launched his audio/sound careers. Bob makes no bones about it; it was his experiences and pursuits in Amateur Radio that led to his successful endeavors.

Bob founded Heil Sound in 1966 which went on to create unique touring sound systems for bands such as The Grateful Dead and The Who. He invented the Heil Talk Box in 1973, which was frequently used by musicians such as Peter Frampton, Joe Walsh and Richie Sambora. Heil's setup later became a template for the modern concert touring sound system and is still in use today.

Heil also had a unique technique to handle the feedback problems; a small, second microphone taped behind each main microphone. Bob said, "We would run the microphones out of phase from the monitors, something that nobody had been doing yet. Since they were out of phase with the microphones and the FOH (editor: front of house) system, anything that leaked in from the monitors would be canceled out. As a result, we could get these things incredibly loud before they would feed back. That's one of the things that Jerry Garcia really loved."

In the late 1970s Heil Sound entered the Amateur Radio market. Bob was driven to fix his perception of problems involving poorly transmitted and received audio. Exclusively for ham operators, he developed the HC series microphones.



Besides being an innovator in the field of Amateur Radio, he's helped pave the way for quality sound in satellite dish systems for broadcasters and live sound engineers ... and was one of the first American companies to create and install Home Theaters. Bob has lectured at major electronic conventions and taught classes at various institutions.

He has won multiple awards and honors, and in 2007 he was the first manufacturer invited to exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2014, Bob Heil was awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Music and Technology from

the University of Missouri.

But wait, there's more!

Instead of reading about Bob here; why not watch and listen to him tell the rest of the story?!

For SARA's Bob Heil December Tech Topic Thursday video:

Refer to the SARA Broadcast of Dec 3, 2021, 7:44 AM by Joseph Heitzinger*

You can also find the following links:

:: Tech Topic Thursday Playlist

:: SARA Monthly Meetings Playlist

IMPORTANT:

These videos are ONLY available to SARA members.

They are available via the SARA YouTube channel.

This is an unlisted channel and you need the link to the video or channel to access it.

***If you are a SARA member and don't have the info, send an email with your name and call sign to: w0oxb@arrl.net**

Comments Received with EF2021 event Confirmation Requests:

AC9F: Thanks for remembering the Fitzgerald again this year.

K2WVU: Thanks for activating the lighthouse!

K8MST: Thanks for the event. I live in Michigan and we honor the Edmund Fitzgerald and its crew that perished on that sad day.

KA3UNQ: ARLHS #278, A.O.Y., L.A.A.

KBØSNE: I lived 6 blocks from Lake Superior when the EDMUND FITZGERALD went down in November 1975. I remember the storm well. My name is MIKE and my QTH is 30 miles due south of Saint Cloud." Thank you for the contact and thank you for the memory.

KB3URV: Thank you for the special event and the 2 Parks. Took 2 attempts to get my number right. (3 instead of 2) but so happy I got in your log.

KB9ZPK: Hello SARA.....I was fortunate enough to make contact with The SARA Group this year 4 times! Everyday of the Fitzgerald Special Event FRI/SAT/SUN! I just wanted to say THANKS to all of you at SARA for doing this Event for 17 years! Wow! That is REAL dedication of your Radio Club.....I have made contact with your group every year except one year when I was ill. The Fitz SE is always the yearly highlight of my Radio Operating. A BIG Thank You to The SARA Club on all of your Hard Work, and Commitment to Remembering The Crew of 29 on The Big Fitz is Greatly Appreciated, by all of us making contact with you Every Year! Thanks for Being there!

KD1IX: Thanks for doing this special event. It was fun to make contact with you. That contest yesterday had so many people all over the bands that I feared you would not find a spot.

KD9LON: POTAx2

KD9NJR: Thanks for the contact and keep up the good work! I know the weather can be miserable in October!

KEØBAQ: Thank you for remembering the Fitz and the 29 lost.

KE8DGF: Joe was my contact and this has been my third year making contact with your station. Thanks for putting on this special event I can remember very well when she went down, stay safe and have fun everyone.

KEØHAL: from SEMARC. I am requesting a certificate when they are ready please. POTA contact for Park #K-2524

KO4SGO: Since...I am a new operator, I was listening on all bands Sunday afternoon during the world wide contesting. I came across the POTA station for the Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event and heard several conversations relating to the events in 1975. I was interested in learning more about the history of what happened so I made the contact. I think it is wonderful to commemorate the tragic loss of life on the Edmund Fitzgerald by holding this annual event. I was amazed at the number of call-ins I heard.

KX4MI: Thank you for doing that special event and the park as well.

N1MHV: Thanks for the contact on both the 30th and 31st of October. Appreciate your park activation and your special event remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald

N9TJC: Thanks for the Special Event, Split Rock Lighthouse (I've visited there) and the Parks.

VE3CBK/QRP: Thank you very much for putting on such an important commemoration.

VE3ISE: Please also confirm the Lighthouse USA 783

KI5EWG: I was pleased to make contact with your special event station today. Please send me the confirmation certificate for the event. The QSO details follow. Incidentally, I saw Gordon Lightfoot sing "The Wreck of The Edmund Fitzgerald" in person twice.

VE3MLM: I was born & raised in Sault Ontario & remember the Edmund Fitzgerald very well
W2BXR: Thanks for a great activation of 2 parks, K8095 and K2524, and Lighthouse USA 783.

W9GPB: I am requesting a Certificate for a contact made with the 2021, ' Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event Station '. I also participate in the ' Parks on the Air Program'.

WDØY: lived in Two Harbors in 1980's for 10 years and now in Rugby, ND

W8BJF: Glad I didn't miss your SES this year. Did find you on FT8. Will look for you guys in February; maybe catch you on phone. Thanks for the SES.

W8KVK: Special thanks for another enjoyable Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event Station (SES). Glad you were able to use the lighthouse again this year. As your time permits, I would appreciate one of your nice certificates:

VE3THR: Thanks for the opportunity to work your SES again. I still remember that event when I lived up in Sault Ste. Marie. Something you never forget on Lake Superior. I am glad you helped keep the memory alive.

Special Event Confirmations

All requests received by 11/27/21 have been sent, and am holding off processing for any final few late requests, to be sent in mid-December. While going through our logs, I tried to catch contacts made by SARA members and get certificates to you, without having to submit a request. If you worked the event, and have not received your certificate, let me know. Am including some of the comments that were received along with confirmation requests. All logs were uploaded to LOTW, and contacts valid for POTA credit were uploaded to that site as well.

Shel NØDRX

Ice Station WØJH

February 19, 20 & 21
Lake Elmo, MN

Put yourself in the picture at our next Special Event!



Membership Update

Thank you to the 73 members who have demonstrated their support by paying SARA dues in a timely manner for 2022 and beyond. Below is a list of those members, as of 12/2/2021, when this is being written.

Nothing is gained by paying dues late, as current 2021 members submitting 2022 dues part way through the coming year, will still have memberships expiring on 12/31/2022. Our membership renewal rate of 73 for the coming year, is running considerably ahead of last year, when on this date in 2020, we had 34 who had paid memberships for 2021.

Regular membership dues are \$20, and Associate/Family dues are \$10 per person per year. The membership application is on the club radioham.org website, and can be submitted online. Payment can be submitted online as well through PayPal, or your valid check sent to me, to match up with the online application. If paying through PayPal, you will also be charged a \$1.25 convenience fee, but it is quick, easy, and safer than sending a check in the mail. Of that convenience fee, PayPal currently charges us \$1.23, and SARA gains a whopping 2 cents. How much is an envelope and first class stamp these days, and how is your postal service?

Renewal time is also a good time to be sure we have your current info. There have been several instances during the past year, when addresses, phone numbers, call signs, and license class upgrades, did not get updated in a timely manner. While we like to keep everything current, the most important is email addresses. If you are not getting the regular weekly broadcast from Joe KCØOIO, it is likely we don't have your current email. While the SARA newsletter is great, the email list has proven to be invaluable when time is a major factor. There have been instances when sites for planned events were changed on short notice, and only those with a good email on the SARA list would receive the updated information. The email list is also the source used for the Webex list, which is used for invitations to online SARA meetings.

Shel NØDRX

trustee@radioham.org

Current Member List

AAØU		KEØN		NØCQ
ABØR		KEØQQM		NØDRX
AD6QT		KEØQQN		NØDXH
ADØSN		KEØROK		NØEBQ
AGØH		KEØSCA		NØMR
KAØNKU		KFØAQF		NØODK
KAØOBI		KFØCCL		NØUC
KB9TBB		KFØDIV		NØUHR
KB9WTB		KFØDQU		VE3MXJ
KBØPCF		KFØGPQ		W2SAD
KC9GEJ		KIØB		W3QLC
KCØOIO		KØCFL		W9LHG
KD9AZE		KØFHB		WAØTDA
KD9OIV		KØGCP		WBØMOA
KD9RFJ		KØGW		WDØAKZ
KD9TVL		KØZZT		WN4GMT
KDØEAP		KT9C		WØDIK
KDØHBU		N5JLZ		WØELC
KDØJTG		N5LB		WØGAF
KDØPKY		N9ILW		WØGIB
KDØQHX		N9JNQ		WØOXB
KDØWGH		N9TOW		WØSU
KEØGOM		NØANP		WQØN
KEØIYF		NØBJE		
KEØIYN		NØBM		

Remote Base Station Update - December 2021

Patrick Tice, wa0tda@arrl.net



Stations WØZSW and WAØTDA are up and running. WØEQO is running in limited mode.

The WØEQO station has persistent RF in the shack problems that we have so far been unable to clear up. An MFJ line isolator, which had been on backorder, has finally arrived and was placed in service at the site, but mitigating the RF problem on 40 m is still ongoing.

We have engaged [Mike Foerster, WØIH](#), in an email conversation as we strategize about possible fixes. Mike has a lot of experience in antennas and remote operation, as you can see on his QRZ page.

I have sent a coil of extra coax provided by Dave, WØOXB, for matching tests at the WØEQO transmitter site. Bill, NØCIC, is also planning to check the antenna by inspecting it along its length and at the feedpoint and along the feedline.

Once again this past month, the station has been reliable on the workhorse 75 meter band and has been getting a lot of use as snowbirds start their migration south and use the Remotehams app to stay in touch with their friends on the HF bands throughout the winter months.

Make contacts in the morning before sunrise! Every morning I check the stations to make sure that they are up and running. Early mornings offer long propagation on the lower frequency HF bands. The upcoming months of long nights present an opportunity to add states for WAS on bands like 160 and 80 meters. If you prefer CW, remember that stations WØZSW, WØEQO, and WAØTDA are all CW enabled. This is not the case for most Remotehams stations.

Good luck & good DX in the remaining days of 2021 and have fun with the radios through the new year and beyond!

73 - Pat wa0tda@arrl.net

A Note from the Editors

This edition of the 2021 Signals from SARA news is produced on Google Docs using 100% recyclable electrons.

We welcome your article submissions. Don't worry about getting the spelling & grammar perfect - submit it anyway and we'll work it out. Please keep text and pictures separate, as this helps us with layout.

We can take most any format, but plain text is easiest to manage. Word docs are also fine, but we'd prefer to avoid formats like MS Publisher and PDF as submissions.



Upcoming events

- **December Meeting: Saturday, December 11, 2021 - Virtual meeting via Webex & in person with some restrictions at Boutwells. 9:20 AM start time.**
- **SARA Lunchroom** - M - F Noon to ?
- **"Sunday Fusion"** SARA's digital voice hangout is every Sunday evening at 7:00 PM. "Sunday Fusion" makes use of the System Fusion C4FM digital voice capabilities of the SARA repeater along with WIRES-X and YSF connectivity, It is an informal "hangout" for those who want to explore the System Fusion capabilities of their radios.
- **January Meeting: Saturday, January 8, 2022.**
- **Discussion** continues anytime at <https://groups.io/g/StillwaterMNA AmateurRadioAssoc>
- **Eyeball QSO Party - Return to the Stillwater Public Library.**
We have returned to the Stillwater Public Library conference room for our Eyeball QSO Parties. The room has been secured for Dec 9. Reservations can only be made 90 days in advance per Library policy.

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