



# Signals from SARA



## WØJH

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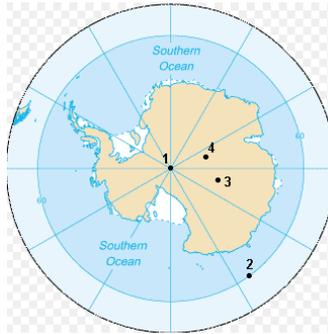
An ARRL Affiliate & Special Service Club

May  
2022

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

### May Meeting: Steve KAØOBI “A Year at the South Pole”

On Thursday we have a forecast high of 91 above. Since my air conditioner is not working, I will be daydreaming of being back at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station where our low was 112 below (not wind chill). That is 203 degrees of free air conditioning with virtually no humidity.



If you want to dream of such comfort yourself, be sure to catch my slide show this Saturday, May 14th. I guarantee you will be amazed at what takes place a mere 11,726 miles due South. Shorts and flip flops are optional.

The monthly meeting of the Stillwater is this coming Saturday at Boutwells Landing 13575 58th Street North, Oak Park Heights MN 55082. We meet in Auditorium A downstairs. Boutwells Landing’s Covid protocols require masks in the common spaces and a temperature check is taken when signing in at the front desk. The desk is staffed beginning at 9:00 AM so please do not enter the facility until 9:00. The meeting will begin once we have established the ZOOM livestream, usually around 9:20 to 9:30 AM. *Public Domain Image: Wikipedia*

### Announcements

The regular monthly meeting returns on **May 14, 2022** in person & via Webex. Start time: **9:20 AM, Boutwells Landing.**

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: 08:15; 3.856 MHz

LSB +/- QRM

> Tuesday (TMT): 19:00; 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)

## SARA POTA Challenge Continues

The SARA Parks on the Air (POTA) Challenge is on. Parks on the Air® has been growing in popularity, and the SARA POTA Challenge is a great way to get in on the fun. The POTA Challenge will run from January 1 through December 31, 2022 and all SARA members are eligible to participate. We will have awards for Hunters and Activators, and awards will be presented in January 2023.

To participate in the POTA Challenge, there are three simple steps required

- Register for an account at [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com)
- Notify Bob - W0GAF, or Brian - KB9TBB that you want to participate
- Go out and work some parks

POTA contacts fall into two categories; Hunters and Activators. Hunters are the folks that make contact with people who are operating from parks. Activators are the folks who go out to parks and operate. The SARA POTA Challenge will be tracking stats for both Hunters and Activators. We anticipate a number of parks will be activated by SARA members this year, and we're also discussing some potential park activations as a club activity. Stay tuned for further updates.

POTA relies on submission of logs by Activators for QSO data. So if you are just working some parks from your QTH, there's no other work for you to do. The Activator you contacted will submit the log and your QSO will be in the POTA database. Each month, your POTA QSO count will be pulled from the POTA site and tallied for the SARA challenge. To participate as a Hunter you do not need to submit any logs, but you do need to have a POTA account set up so your park QSOs will be counted. For Activators participating in the SARA POTA Challenge, we simply ask that you copy us when you send your ADIF log to your POTA Coordinator.

You can find much more information about Parks on the Air at their website: [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com). This is also the place to create your POTA account. When you set up your account, any parks you have worked in the past will magically appear in your log book. You may even find you've already qualified for one of the many POTA awards available.

Watch this space, as well as the SARA website for additional information on the SARA POTA Challenge. We are also planning some Tech Topic discussions on park activation, and park logging. Bob - W0GAF and Brian - KB9TBB are the SARA POTA Challenge coordinators. Please contact them with any questions you may have about the SARA POTA Challenge.

Bob - [w0gaf@radioham.org](mailto:w0gaf@radioham.org)

Brian - [kb9tbb@arrl.net](mailto:kb9tbb@arrl.net)

*Parks on the Air® is a registered service mark by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.*

## It's a Big, Wide World of Ham Radio Out There...

*...and it's okay to do your own thing.*

It's a story as old as time (or at least as old as 1967, when I first passed my Novice exam. Get your ticket and there will be no shortage of advice as to what you should do and how you should do it. Get your Tech license, and someone will certainly insist that you should get your General so that you can, you know, have REAL fun on the HF bands. Buy a Baofeng UV5R, and for \$25 you are on the air... but be prepared to be judged for not shelling out \$300 for something better.

So it has always been - The AM phone guys thought SSB sounded like Donald Duck and they'd be darned to heck if they ever changed, forgetting that the CW guys had been complaining about phone ops for years before that. The RTTY folks were in some weird world of

their own in which the CW people couldn't imagine who would want all of that extra (and noisy) TTY gear when they could easily just listen and copy with nothing more than a pad of paper and a pencil to take a few notes, and the phone people wondered why anyone would bother with either CW or RTTY when you could, you know, just get on and talk. And the VHF/UHF devotees were - as one old timer I knew proclaimed, "only interested in the bird bands". VHF FM repeaters came along, and suddenly handheld radios and mobile rigs with antenna systems that didn't turn heads were practical, and garnered considerable interest, even from old coots who swore they would never be heard anywhere but on HF.

As the years passed, more modes were introduced, some blowing up like packet radio, only to fade into obscurity when they were replaced by something better, or at least different. OSCARS were launched and are still being launched, creating new opportunities for space communications, yet another interest in a growing sea of interests, nested like Russian dolls in the growing activity we call Amateur Radio.



Even if new modes aren't considered, there have always been divergent interests in Amateur Radio; some of us like working with antennas, others prefer building their own gear, designing circuits, writing software, operating portable, contesting, chasing DX, mobile operation... It's all out there for the taking, and no single activity is intrinsically better than any other, so my advice is to do what you want, and to H - E - double toothpicks to anyone who looks down their nose at you because your choices aren't theirs.

This brings me to ham radio on social media. Facebook, Twitter, Reddit... You will find plenty of advice and opinionating vis-à-vis ham radio on all of them. Some of it is worthwhile and helpful, some is dismissive and nasty, some is just plain wrong, and most of it is worth exactly what you are paying for it. Whatever you do, don't be cowed by some dude who insists that FT8 isn't real radio or that DMR and YSF are somehow illegitimate because, you know, THE INTERNET. (It isn't your fault that they can't figure these things out and need tech support to open a text document.) You do your thing and they can do theirs. Be kind. Be helpful. Be open-minded. Listen to them, keeping in mind that they are just now opening the door to an activity with lots and lots of interesting facets. Always remember this when someone new to ham radio asks for help.

And if you like your Baofeng radio, great. I like mine, too.

I hope to contact you on the air soon!

73 - Pat

[wa0tda@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tda@arrl.net)

PS: Yeah, okay, this one is actually better. But I still like them both.

PPS: A good place to learn how to get started in ham radio is New Ham Night, a SARA sponsored activity.



# SARA New Ham Night

Thursday, May 12

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Valley View Park, 5481 Osgood Ave N; Oak Park Heights

## Designed for All Newly Licensed Hams!

If you are a new ham ... *this is for YOU! (All are Welcome!)*

### Answers to Key Questions:

? How Much \$\$\$ Do I Need to Spend?

? What Should Be My First Radio?

Frequencies/Bands?

New or Used?

Portable, Mobile or Home?

? What Antenna Should I Use?

Buy or Build?

Fixed or Portable?

### Learn How To:

:: Make Your First QSO/Contact :: Check into Nets

:: Use Common Protocols :: Use Repeaters

:: Improve Operating Skills :: Operate Simplex

:: Program Radios :: Find Help

You'll learn "Dos and Don'ts" to help you have more fun communicating.

If you'd like help programming radios, especially handhelds;

bring 'em!

**It's All About Getting On the Air!**



## Spring-Summer Start Time: SARA-Sponsored Monday Morning 75m Round-Robin Ragchew

It's spring and time to alter the start time for our Monday morning gatherings!  
(Low frequency propagation is being affected by absorption. If you didn't know this, try having a local QSO on 80/75m after ~9:30 am local time!)

Each Monday (starting March 7):

:: 8:15 am Central Time

:: 3.856 MHz (+/- QRM); LSB

(Please remember to use the "big knob" on your radio to tune around and find us!)

\*This is a facilitated, informal gathering; it is not a net!

\*All are welcome to join us (SARA membership is not required).

## Armed Forces Day Crossband Exercise & Prairie Island Evac Drill Scheduled May 14 2022

Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Exercise is set for May 14 this year. This exercise is open to all licensed amateurs. The purpose is to practice communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service. Tentative plans were for amateurs to answer the military net control call by transmitting on channel one of the sixty meter band. More details are expected to be published on the ARRL web site in April, so stay tuned.

Also, any SARA member interested in participating in the annual **Prairie Island Evacuation Drill** is asked to contact John Regan at [jeregan3@gmail.com](mailto:jeregan3@gmail.com) for details and participation. Training provided. The date will be May 25th, 5-8 PM.

Thanks for your consideration!!

John, KAØHYR

## For Sale

**ICOM 7610** for sale at a very good price. Please contact Henry Schwartz KØHAS at 651-485-9215 for price and details.

**Ham IV Rotor:** My wife is on a housecleaning rampage. She has discovered an old Ham IV antenna rotor which I will never use again. I used it for a little while many years ago. The rotor is in very good condition. Dx Engineering lists the rotor for \$800 today. I would like to give the rotor away to a deserving ham. Contact Gary Propp WBØMOA at [gpropp@comcast.net](mailto:gpropp@comcast.net).

## VE Session Report



**From left to right: Ken WA1BFS, Mike WAØKKE, Dave N9JNQ, Mark KEØQQN, & Bob WØGAF.**

The VE Team of NØDXH, KØGW, WAØKKE, N9JNQ, KEØQQN, WA1BFS, WØGAF, KCØOIO, AD6QT, KØZZT, & NØDRX had a very successful exam session on April 28th. After the dust had settled at the end of the session, 9 of 10 examinees had either an upgrade, or a brand new ham license.

License class and successful examinees are: Extra: Adam Dooley KDØHBU, General: Bob Stirling KFØHZG, Paul Petersen KEØOGI, & Judy Rude KD9UXU, and Technician: Mark Trana, Micah Valine, Tim Grotheer, Claude Cybulski, & Sabrina Fish. The new Tech calls had not been issued by the FCC in time to be included in this article.

The success from the recent SARA Technician Classes was very evident at this exam session, and the success of students from the class having passed their Tech exams at an earlier exam session. While I may not be aware of them all, I know Kat Johnson KDØKAT, Judy Rude KD9UXU, Theresa Schousek KD9UXV, & Victoria Schousek KD9UXW, were all among that group. Congratulations to all!

All of the successful examinees either already were, or have since become members of SARA, which brings the membership for 2022 to 125 members. New Ham Night on May 12, and Field Day June 25-26, will be an ideal opportunity to become more familiar with this great hobby.

## Bandwidth from the President

Greetings from my shack, de Joe KCØOIO.

I'd like to congratulate the new amateur radio operators from our recent Technician license class. Nearly all the students have tested and passed the Technician Element 2 exam. And at least one has upgraded to General less than 2 weeks after passing the Tech! We look forward to hearing you on the air. Be sure to attend New Ham Night May 12<sup>th</sup>.



We begin the SARA Summer in the Parks May 12 with New Ham Night at Valley View Park in Oak Park Heights. Building upon the success of the outdoor Eyeball QSO parties last year and adding an opportunity for late shift POTA activity with SARA POTA Challenge 2022, we will gather outdoors for the Thursday Eyeball QSO Party now through early September. We will move around to various local parks and POTA entities in June, July, and August. The Valley View Park pavilion has been reserved for May 12, June 2, June 23, July 14, Aug 4, Aug 25, and Sept 15 sessions. Locations for the rest of the Thursday evening sessions will be announced each week in the SARA This Week email bulletin and radioham.org posting. We'll also have a cookout or two and maybe a pizza night too!

Speaking of the SARA POTA Challenge 2022, we're planning a SARA POTA Activity Day on Saturday June 11. The day will begin with the SARA 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Breakfast at Perkins. POTA activators will hit the road after breakfast and activate as many POTA entities in the St Croix River – East Metro – Western Wisconsin area as we can. Depending on the number of activators participating, we'll split into 2 or 3 groups and activate more entities and help each with park to park contacts. We'll likely operate on 40-20-15 meters and we will try 2-meter FM simplex for the local hunters. If you are unable to join the group activators, activate on your own. Hunters will be critical to the success of each activation. If you are not out activating, then hunt for them.

The ARRL Field Day is June 25 – 26. SARA will participate with a ?A – MN effort from Autumn Hills Park in Oak Park Heights, our location for the past several years. Bob WØGAF is coordinating the club's Field Day activity. We will operate from the park from the start of the on-air period at 18:00 UTC (13:00 CDT) until about sundown on Saturday and again Sunday morning until 18:00 UTC (13:00 CDT). Set up time Saturday morning is to be determined as is the number of stations (1 or 2) and the rest of the details for the weekend.

Although we take a break from monthly meetings in June thru August, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Breakfast continues. We'll be at Perkins in Stillwater about 7:30 AM June 11, July 9 and Aug 13. Please join us.

I am still looking for someone to take the task of arranging for programs for our monthly meetings. I need to enlist others to handle some of the SARA workload. The role of Programs Coordinator is not difficult nor time consuming, although you have to be able to handle an occasional rejection. A creative and open mind for soliciting program ideas and presenters is the only requirement. If you are willing to take on the role, please contact me at [kc0oio2002@gmail.com](mailto:kc0oio2002@gmail.com).

I have been assembling a portable kit for POTA activities. I have an IC-705 with an LDG Z-100 auto tuner as the primary rig. A few of us recently built 49:1 baluns for end fed half wave antennas. I have completed one and have the wire antenna cut for 40 meters that's also usable for 20 and 15, according to the scan with a NanoVNA. That's in the bag along with a HFedz End Feed for 160-10. Brian KB9TBB clued me to a 10 aH LiFePo Power Queen battery on Amazon. I now have that in the bag as a lighter option for my 40 aH Bioenno LiFePo. I'll bring the Bioenno along when running with a laptop for digital modes. I also have a homebrew Buddistick vertical available in the antenna arsenal. The radio & tuner are in an Apache 3800 case from Harbor Freight. The wire antennas, 10 aH battery and other supplies are carried in a carry bag from Cabelas. The bag also includes an arborist's throw weight and line for getting the wire up into the trees. Looking forward to getting out and operating with this set up soon.



The May meeting will feature Steve KAØOBI's story of his year as station manager at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. The station had a ham shack that Steve, being the only licensed ham at the station that year, was able to use for his benefit and the benefit of others of the crew at the station by arranging phone patches for them. I am sure this will be an interesting presentation.

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

73 es CUL de KCØOIO

## Remote Base Station Update - May 2022

Patrick Tice, [wa0tda@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tda@arrl.net)



Stations WØZSW and WAØTDA are up and running. WØEQO is running in limited mode (receive only on 40 meters, other bands are okay for transmit/receive).

Contact Pat at [wa0tda@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tda@arrl.net) for transmit access or for help.

Information and videos, along with a quick start guide are available here: <http://tice.us/wa0tda/>

The [May 10 edition of the Star Tribune](#) carried a story about a lightning strike at a place we all know well: **Split Rock Lighthouse State Park**. The lightning is said to have struck a tree in the parking lot near the visitor center, which ordinarily wouldn't be a big deal, except that the current surge traveled underground to the underground wiring serving the parking lot lighting and continued following the underground wiring into the visitor center and the lighthouse itself, where it charred and destroyed breakers and did other unspecified damage, closing down the affected buildings for assessment and repairs.

This serves as a reminder that all bets are off when it comes to lightning strikes! Sometimes I feel I'm being a bit paranoid when I disconnect the antennas and shut down the stations when there is a mere possibility of thunderstorms passing through, but stories like that should keep us on our toes. Of course stations WA0TDA and W0ZSW are both at my QTH, so this kind of oversight is way easier than managing W0EQO, which is at [Camp Wilderness in rural Hubbard County!](#)

Since we will be doing more work at the W0EQO station, it is going to be a good time to review our lightning mitigation system there and here at my QTH. I'm not sure what is in place at W0EQO, but here at my location I am using the old style spark gap arresters along with current limiting loops of feedline - it's probably time for gas discharge devices at all of the stations. Of course no inline arrester can provide the protection that disconnecting the coax can, but since the Scout Camp station is mostly unattended, we need to do the best we can with lightning protection. The review at that station should also include the lightning protection status of the 147.39 MHz repeater that shares the tower with the W0EQO wire antenna.

Over the summer we will post updates on the groups.io mailing list. Your feedback on anything relating to the remotes is always welcome.

Good luck & good DX in 2022 and have fun with the radios!

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



## Upcoming events

- **May Meeting: Saturday, May 14, 2022 - Last meeting before summer break.**
- **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.
- **June, July, August - Summer break**
- **2022 ARRL Field Day - June 25-26** - <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>
- **Discussion** continues anytime at <https://groups.io/g/StillwaterMNAmateurRadioAssoc>

## SARA 2022 Officers

Joe Heitzinger, KCØOIO - President

Bob Jensen, WØGAF - Vice President

Dave Iverson, N9JNQ - Secretary

Rich Smith, ADØSN - Treasurer

Zack Zaccagnini, AAØU - 2021 & 2022 Director

Brad Harris, VE3MXJ - 2022 & 2023 Director

Trustee: Shel Mann, NØDRX

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

## A Note from the Editors

This edition of the 2022 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. Email [wa0tda@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tda@arrl.net) - Note that the old Comcast.net address is no longer checked.

