



Signals from SARA



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

WØJH

May
2023

May Program - Michael Walker VA3MW on FlexRadio



Michael Walker, VA3MW, presents an overview of FlexRadio products and how SDR technology is benefiting Ham Radio today.

Meetings are held in Auditorium A at The Gables at Boutwells Landing 13575 58th Street North, in Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

Boutwells Landing requires face masks in public spaces in the facility. Please bring your mask. We are asked not to arrive at Boutwells before 9:00 AM.

Announcements

The regular monthly meeting returns on May 13 2023 in person & via Zoom. 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.

SARA On the Air

Phone Round-Robin Ragchews/Nets
Times are Local - Central

- >160m Ragchew
Nightly, 20:00; ~1.966 MHz
Alternates: ~3.813 - 3.830 MHz, 21.316 MHz, ~50.166 MHz (USB)
- >Monday Morning 75m Ragchew
08:15; ~3.856 MHz
- > 2m Tuesday (TMT)
19:00; SARA 2m Repeater*
- > Sunday Fusion Digital Voice Hangout
19:00; SARA Repeater* 147.060+ MHz
DCS/DTCS 026 Normal or connect via WIRES-X to WØJH-Room 63969

*SARA 2m Repeater:
147.060 MHz; Positive Offset;
DCS/DTCS 026 Normal or connect via WIRES-X to WØJH-Room 63969.

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

SARA does not hold Saturday monthly meetings in June, July, & August.

Minnesota G.I. Bill and Amateur Radio

One of the volunteer examiners at the April SEMARC VE session shared that the “Minnesota G.I. Bill” provides many benefits for Minnesota veterans. We learned that one of the provisions of the state law is that the cost of professional and occupational study materials, classes, exam fees and license fees can be reimbursable for veterans up to the age of 62.

According to Charles Egerstrom, a benefits manager at the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, this benefit includes amateur radio exam and license fees, including the FCC amateur radio license fee for new and renewal licenses. The MDVA will reimburse most educational expenses up to a maximum of \$3000 per year and \$10,000 for a lifetime. Reimbursement can be made up to one (1) year after the date the expense was incurred.

To apply, visit MDVA PROGRAMS & SERVICES PORTAL. You will also need to submit a copy of your FCC amateur radio license and a Form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number | Internal Revenue Service

For more information, visit Minnesota GI Bill / Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs or contact your county Veterans Service Office (VSO). If your VSO is not familiar with the eligibility of amateur radio fees, refer them to Mr. Egerstrom at 651-336-2371.

Joe Hibberd, W3QLC

Remote Base Station Update - May 2023 brings changes

Patrick Tice, wa0tda@arrl.net



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

WØZSW will be decommissioned this month - May 2023

The time has come! Prior to its move north, the station will be taken apart and all accessories and cabling will be labeled prior to packing it up. This is the strategy we used to get the Park Rapids station configured here on my

workbench before sending it up north for installation by Bill, NØCIC.

My son Will, KCØLJL, and I will begin the process by taking the station offline and packing up the IC-7300 and its accessories. Some labeling may be required to facilitate reassembly at the new remote QTH.

The Host PC will need to be prepared for the move as well. It has been running for several years continuously and will need to be opened up for a cleaning to assure that its cooling system is clear of dust. Other “housekeeping” will need doing as well - we will need to be sure that the OS and all necessary software is up to date. Old software that hasn't been used will be removed. Remote admin software will be updated as necessary. This will allow the station admins to manage the user base and fix most problems involving the host computer.

If the club decides to rename the station to WØJH, that change can be made in the RCForb host software prior to the move. We will consider changing the ZSW callsign to WØJH this year as long as we are making so many other changes. This leaves the WØZSW callsign free for use by the HANDIHAM Radio Camp. The callsign is already managed by Matt, KAØPQW. The station will continue to be open to use by Handiham members no matter which callsign is used.

Once the PC is cleaned up and tested, it will also be packed for its trip up north. Cabling and accessories will be included and labeled as necessary.

Contact Pat at wa0tda@arrl.net for transmit access or for help. Information about current station status and videos are available here:

<http://tice.us/wa0tda/>

Wayne Johansson WAØEBZ SK



I'm sorry to have to report that Wayne Johansson WAØEBZ passed away on April 24, 2023. Wayne was a very active amateur and prior member of SARA, SPRC and 3M clubs until retiring and moving with his wife to a new home/farm in Osakis, MN.

We'll miss having our weekly skeds with him in the morning on 80 meters.

RIP Wayne....

Keith Miller AGØH

VE Session Report

Shel NØDRX

The VE team of KØGW, KFØEKD, WA1BFS, ADØSN, KEØQQN, WAØKKE, NØDXH, WAØTDA, WØOXB, WØGAF, KCØOIO, and NØDRX, had a very successful exam session on April 27th. We administered a total of 37 exam elements to a total of 19 examinees. This was the largest session we have had since we had 22 examinees for exams in April 2015. This session was particularly sweet, as every examinee passed at least 1 exam. The bottom line at the end of the session, we had eight new Techs, nine new Generals, and two new Extras. I also want to note that eight of the new Generals entered the session with no current license.

Congratulations to all of our successful examinees, and particularly SARA members, Chris KFØKXT, who earned an upgrade to Extra, and Mary KDØPKY, who earned an upgrade to General.

The FCC began processing the new licenses on May 3rd, with the upgraded license results at the head of the line, and the rest being issued as the recent \$35 FCC fees are being submitted. To acknowledge their accomplishment, nine successful new hams accepted our offer of associate membership in SARA until the end of 2023. As of the time this is being written six of them have their calls, and hopefully the remaining three calls will be issued soon. Congratulations to John KD9YFC, Buck KD9YFK, Bill KFØMNC, Andrew KFØMNO, Allen KFØMNT, Michael KFØMNU, Mickey, Jon, and Collin.

ARRL Dues Survey

ARRL Members: The ARRL Dues Survey is open now (May 1 - 31). [Please take a few minutes to log in to the ARRL website and complete the survey.](#) The reality is that good things like ARRL have value, and we, as members, have a chance to help the Board make the changes necessary to keep ARRL on a solid financial footing. I know that I appreciate its many services: QST and other publications, the TIS (Technical Information Service), the ARRL.net email forwarding, the advocacy, LotW, product reviews, ARES, operating events, and so much more... and I'm willing to support those things.

I hope you are, too.

DE [WAØTDA](#)

Skywarn 2023

Shel NØDRX



It was great to return to in-person training after being on hiatus for the past couple of years due to Covid. The SARA sponsored Skywarn training session at the Stillwater Public Library on May 6th was well attended. While most attendees were hams, a few were not, and Skywarn training is good information for everyone to have. The training has come a long way, since NØDXH and I attended our first session in Bloomington, back around 1983.



It had been about four years since we had last attended a training session, so our certifications had lapsed, and improvement in the training was very obvious. Certainly helped having knowledgeable instructors that were passionate about what they were doing, but the overall presentation of the needed subject matter has improved.

Even if you do not intend to participate in an official capacity as a spotter, I strongly suggest that everyone attend a training session. Who knows, the life you save, could be your own!

SARA's POTA Activity Days 2023



SARA's 2023 POTA Activity Days are scheduled for 2 Saturdays this summer, plus the annual Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald weekend at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park.

Saturday June 10 will be the 2nd annual SARA POTA Activity Day. This is the multi-op, multi-park, roving day. The day starts as we gather for the SARA 2nd Saturday breakfast at Perkins. From there, we will spend the day activating area parks.

Activators groups can rove from park to park, or a few "veteran" activators are planning to set up at a park for the day and other activators can visit and work from the park with that activator. A list of parks with a primary activator will be published before the Activity Day.

The day will wrap up with dinner at Acapulco Mexican Restaurant in Stillwater about 6:00 PM.

The first ever SARA POTA Meetup Day will be Saturday August 12. POTA Meetups are very popular within the POTA community, SARA will host this POTA Meetup for the POTA community in the east central MN and west central WI area.

Activators and hunters alike are welcome to Meetup at Wild River State Park (K-2529) on that Saturday. We have the park's picnic shelter reserved from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There is plenty of space and places in the park for activators to spread out and get on the air.

A picnic lunch is planned. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided and attendees are encouraged to bring something to share. A collection will be taken to defray expenses for the food and shelter.

A heads-up for that day, the Almelund Threshing Show is the same weekend. The show grounds are to the east of the park location. Traffic is expected to be heavy in that area, specifically coming from the west on MN Highway 95. It is recommended by an Almelund local ("Wild River" Bob KFØHZG) to approach Almelund from the west via alternate routes such as I-35 or Hwy 61 to North Branch, then east on 95 to Almelund, or Chisago County Road 12 north from Highway 8 in Center City.

The Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event is Nov 3 to Nov 5. Operating from the Trail Center at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park (K-2524) places us within 100 feet of the Gitchi Gami State Trail (K-8095), making this a 2-fer activation for each day we are there. Make plans to spend the weekend with us or drop by for a day. The North Shore is a POTA-rich environment and activators in the club are known to take advantage of being in the area to activate other parks during the weekend.

SARA's Summer in the Parks

The weekly Eyeball QSO Party will move outdoors for the summer beginning Thursday May 18 through early September. Summer in the Parks has proven popular with our visits to various parks throughout the St. Croix Valley area and being able to set up portable stations to get on the air. Folks usually start arriving at the designated park around 5:30 PM and stay until around 8:00 PM.

May 18 is our annual New Ham Night. SARA has the shelter at Valley View Park booked for the evening, so it's rain-or-shine this evening. Valley View Park is at 5421 Osgood Ave N, Oak Park Heights, MN, 55082. The park entrance is on the east side of Osgood Avenue, just south of the residential area.

Valley View Park is our "home" park for SARA's Summer in the Parks as we have booked the shelter there for every third week. Additional evenings at this park are June 8 (Field Day Site Survey and Planning), June 29, July 20, August 10, and August 31.

Other parks we visit include Otto Berg Park in Stillwater Township, Autumn Hills and Brekke Parks in Oak Park Heights, Birkmose Park in Hudson, Pioneer Park and Brown's Creek Park/State Trail in Stillwater, and the St. Croix Boom Site just north of Stillwater. Suggestions are welcome! If you know of a good park location in the area, drop me a note at kc0oio2002@gmail.com and I will add it to the list.

The early schedule of additional park locations and dates will be:

- May 25: Otto Berg Park, Norell Ave N & 90th St N, Stillwater
- June 1: Browns Creek Park/State Trail 8312 Neal Ave N, Stillwater
- June 8: Valley View Park
- June 15: Pioneer Park, 515 2nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082
- June 22: Sunfish Lake Park, 3554 Kelvin Ave N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042
- June 29: Valley View Park
- July 6: Autumn Hills Park, 5697 Norwich Pkwy, Oak Park Heights, MN 55082
- July 13: Birkmose Park, 329 Front St, Hudson, WI 54016

In case of inclement weather, Collin KEØIYN has offered the "shed" garage and "The Diner" at his QTH on Osgood Ave south of Valley View Park as a covered location for those evenings.

Hot dogs and other picnic foods have been known to be offered on occasion during an evening in the park!

Come on out and enjoy the evening with your friends from SARA.

ARRL Field Day 2023

SARA will be participating in the annual ARRL Field Day June 24 and 25.

This year, we will be operating from Valley View Park in Oak Park Heights. This is a new Field Day location for us, although the park is very familiar.

Preliminary plans have us setting up Saturday morning (time to be determined) and operating in Field Day from 1:00 PM (1800 UTC) until about sundown (around 0200 UTC). We will resume operating Sunday around 9:00 AM (1400 UTC) through 12:59 PM (1759 UTC), with teardown to follow.

Our Field Day chair, Bob WØGAF, is planning to have 2 stations operating as WØJH 2A MN. Bob is expecting expanded participation at the CW station following SARA's CW study group late 2022. Plans may also incorporate a GOTA (Get on the Air) station given the number of new licensees from the April 27 VE session.

The food and beverage plan is being developed. We have secured an "adult beverage" license for the weekend.

SARA's Field Day is one of the leading events on our annual activity calendar. Come out and join the fun of ARRL's oldest operating event as SARA joins the hundreds of clubs and thousands of hams getting on the air throughout the Americas that weekend.



Washington County ARES



Lake St. Croix Beach flood duty

WCARES has concluded our service to the city of Lake St. Croix Beach as of 1700 CDT on April 28. We were asked to control entry to the flood zone so that visitors ("gawkers") did not create traffic jams and disturb the residents. We worked 204.5 hours in the 11 days from April 18-28. Many thanks to the following ARES members who reported for duty: K0GCP, KA0HYR, KB0SED, KC0OIO, KD0MHE, KE0HAL, KF6WQH, KF9CP, N0BM, N0UC, and W3QLC.

REP Drill Training

WCARES participates in the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) drills held at Park High School in Cottage Grove. These drills are required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the Emergency Response Plan for the Prairie Island nuclear power plant in Red Wing.

This year the drills will be on June 7 and June 28.

In preparation for the upcoming Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) drills, all participants are required to complete online training and receive the "right to know" information regarding radiation. For more information, contact Joe Hibberd W3QLC.

FEMA Training

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI), located at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD, offers a broad range of National Incident Management System (NIMS) related training. The following NIMS-related courses are highly recommended for all ARES members:

IS-100.b - Introduction to Incident Command System

IS-200.b- ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction

IS-800.b National Response Framework, An Introduction

Register for these FREE online courses at Emergency Management Institute - National Incident Management System (NIMS) (fema.gov).

ARRL ARES Newsletter

The ARRL has a newsletter aimed at ARES members. The ARES Letter is an informative email newsletter about Amateur Radio Public Services and Emergency Communications that are available to ARRL members via email free of charge directly from ARRL HQ.

Subscribe today! Visit ARES Letter (arrl.org).

WCARES Monthly Net

The monthly WCARES net operates on the third (3rd) Thursday of the month on the 147.180+ repeater. PL tone is 74.4 in South Washington County (Newport) and 100.0 in North Washington County (Forest Lake). Please join us to brush up on your net control procedures and enjoy talking with your co-members.

Visit us at mnwashcoares.net

73 and Be Safe,

Joe Hibberd W3QLC

Emergency Coordinator

Washington County ARES

joehibberd11@gmail.com

Upcoming events

- **May Monthly Meeting Saturday, May 13 - Boutwells Landing 9:00 AM** (Don't arrive early) 13575 58th Street North, Oak Park Heights Zoom Stream begins at 9:15 AM. *Early birds: 7:30 AM Breakfast/Coffee*
Pre-meeting: Perkins Restaurant (2050 Frontage Rd, Stillwater)
 - **Boutwells Landing policy – WEAR Mask in Lobby!**
- **Thursdays, ~6:00 – 8:00 PM EyeBall QSO Parties** Stillwater Public Library or other locations (members will be advised.)
- **Summer Signals Hiatus - The newsletter goes on vacation - no Signals newsletter June/July/August.**
- **New Ham Night & Outdoor Eyeball QSO Party** Thursday, May 18 (~5:30 - 8:00 PM) Valley View Park, Oak Park Heights
- **June - August - No regular meetings**
- **SARA's Summer in the Parks - see page 7.**
- **SARA's 2023 POTA Activity Days are scheduled for 2 Saturdays this summer - see page 6.**
- **ARRL Field Day is June 24-25, 2023. See page 8.**

SARA Connections:

We offer multiple ways to stay connected with SARA. They include: groups.io, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

SARA groups.io: <https://groups.io/g/StillwaterMNAmateurRadioAssoc>

SARA YouTube Playlists: Technical Topic Thursday

SARA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/527705810939785>

SARA on Instagram: sararadioham

SARA on Twitter: @saraW0JH

SARA on Flickr: Photos taken at the 2023 SARA Sweep have been posted to the Flickr Site. The link is: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjArS2C>

Stillwater Amateur Radio Association Discord Server

The "Stillwater Amateur Radio Association" Discord server was established by Brian KB9TBB and is available exclusively for SARA members. The admin team

is Brian KB9TBB, Shane WØNKA, and Collin KEØIYN. The “Introduction to SARA’s Discord Server” from Feb 23rd Tech Topic Thursday video is now available on the SARA YouTube Channel. It is part of the Technical Topic Thursday Playlist.

Our Discord Server is open to all current SARA members. To join the “Stillwater Amateur Radio Association” Discord server, click on this link:

<https://discord.gg/Z9A8NsCCXh>

SARA 2023 Officers

The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected annually. The Director positions are 2-year terms, each elected in alternating years. One Director is elected for the 2023-2024 term.

- President: Joe Heitzinger, KCØOIO
- Vice President: Bob Jensen, WØGAF
- Secretary: Dave Iverson, N9JNQ
- Treasurer: Rich Smith, ADØSN
- Director '23-'24 Brian Edgell, KØPU
- Director '22-'23 Brad Harris VE3MXJ will continue for the 2nd year of his term.

Trustee: Shel Mann, NØDRX (Note: The SARA Trustee officer is an appointed position; chosen by the elected officers)

Now is the time to consider helping shape the future of the Association by serving as an official of SARA.

A Note from the Editors

This edition of the 2023 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