



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings everyone. Here we are commencing a new year for SCARC and a busy one it will be.

Although the year is young we must consider preparing for the future and I mean that in many ways. Of course, we have

our 40th Hamfest in July and the June contests which include the VHF challenge and Field Day. But we should prepare for the future and I mean that in a way that goes beyond individual club events.

Now don't take this wrong but.....

Many years ago, Amateurs had to build their own gear. It took time and sometimes the equipment was crude but you gained a sense of accomplishment by doing this on your own. As time went on kits became popular, but the need to build was still apparent. The kits were complex but you gained experience in construction techniques and an understanding of radio architecture. As technology has grown we've lost some of these skills; the ability to improvise and design a "widget". Many people are computer savvy which is great but using a computer is only a part of the hobby.

Back in the day most club members were affiliated with technical careers. Now we have a broad base of skill sets. I think it's great having such diversity but it doesn't take away from the fact that this is a technical hobby. So how do we change that?

Education! I will be putting together presentations on some of the technical aspects of the hobby. I hope others will do the same. Rob, KD2HOA, providing a presentation in March on tying knots in ropes is a good start (we all string antennas into trees). But doing presentations is a slow process so I suggest getting out there and trying to build a dipole, a J-Pole or even a Log-Periodic-Dipole Array (LPDA). Build some simple kits like a low power WSPR transmitter kit. Go to YouTube; search the internet that's how you learn. Improvise, adapt and reuse household items to create the tools of the trade.

What's the purpose to all this; succession! Who will succeed us with the skill set and background to keep SCARC alive and well. Who will have the knowledge in putting up tents, towers, integrating radios and computers? Who will manage the Hamfest? That's the point of all this education. Watch, learn, ask questions and get involved.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- If you wish to provide a future article for the newsletter, please forward to Lorianne, KD2CVR, Club Secretary at brilor-photo@mac.com.
- Next Club Meeting is on April 13th at the Spring Fling to be held at the Branchville American Legion, 157 US 206, Branchville NJ - 6:00pm to 9:00pm.
- Next Exam session is on April 20th at the Sussex Count Fire Academy, 114 Morris Turnpike, Newton, NJ 07860 at 7:30pm.



2018 SLATE OF CLUB OFFICERS

The 2018 slate of officers was completed at the January 19th meeting. The ballots were tallied by Kelly Leavitt, KB2SYD and Ron Boucher, KE2R. Results were as follows:

President

58 John Santillo 2 Dan Carter 1 Brian Brunsch

Vice President

28 Dan Carter 35 Dawn Payne

Secretary

60 Lorianne Brunsch 1 Dawn Payne

Treasurer

62 Walt Murphy 1 Mickey Mouse 1 Bernie Madoff

Member-at Large

62 Jason Smaletz

Thanks to everyone that sent in or delivered their ballots to the meeting.



SPRING FLING

As we have all been busy the late few winters, the Sussex County Amateur Club has decided to have a “Spring Fling” this year. Enjoy time and visit with follow club members at this buffet dinner and social get together.

APRIL 13TH ,2018

Please RSVP to:

brilorphoto@mac.com or 973-209-1714

If you wish to attend by April 7th 2018

Location: Branchville American Legion

Address: 157 Us Highway 206, Branchville, NJ 07826

Time: 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Buffet Dinner to be provided by club

B.Y.O.D—Bring Your Own Dessert to share with your club mates.

Beverages available at the Bar on site.



FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Executive Meeting – February 2, 2018

Attending: President – John Santillo N2HMM, Immediate Past President – Brian Brunsch KC2YON, Vice President – Dawn Payne AD2P, Treasurer – Walter Murphy N2WM, Secretary – Lorianne Brunsch KD2CVR, Member at Large – Jason Smaletz KC2QDU, Tech Committee Chairman - Kelly Leavitt - KB2SYD

Hamfest

Discussions on final Flyer layout were made and all officers were in agreement on door prizes listed on flyer; winners of 1st and 2nd place not be present to win.

As “bags” have been a great hit the few years we had donations all the officers were in agreement to purchasing of red handled “Set Sail Tote” from 4imprint.com with a black logo to include “40th Anniversary”, and the website address of – SCARCNJ.org printing area.

In 2017 there was an issue with our bread delivery from Anthony & Sons. Walter Murphy, Hamfest Committee Chair, sent a letter to the General Manager requesting refund of check from the 2017 Hamfest bread delivery that never occurred. A call from Anthony & Sons was recieved that a refund check is in the mail. The club will be researching other bread vendor options for 2018 and future.

Banking

Lakeland Bank: The officers agreed to update check signage approval to include the new slate of officers. A motion made to approve the addition of Dawn Payne and Lorianne Brunsch as additional signatories with Walter Murphy to access the club checking and savings accounts. Also approval was given to Walter Murphy to open electronic banking for the same accounts. A 2nd motion was made by Brian Brunsch to allow Walter Murphy open/research a safe deposit box at the Lakeland Bank to store important club documents. **PayPal:** Per Kelly Leavitt access is available on the website. All were in agreement that PayPal is not be used at hamfest.

Website

John Santillo agreed to train self on how to update the website. Renewal of SCARCNJ.org domain name is due in March.

EXECUTIVE MEETING CONT'D...

DxCluster

Kelly Leavitt has had the cluster located at his home address for many years and has decided to change phone service providers. The cost to have a static IP address for the cluster will be astronomical per month with the new provider. As the use of the current W2LV cluster is very limited it was decided to reach out to N2KI to see if we can redirect the W2LV cluster to his address.

Newsletter

It was requested from John Santillo for the club to do a quarterly newsletter. A sample was provided from the Fair Lawn club - it is 24 pages and done monthly for a club that is similar in size to ours. Lorianne Brunsch is to research Microsoft Publisher to create a newsletter for future "plug-and-play" of content. Lorianne requested additional content from the membership - photos, items of interest for the club members, etc to be provided. Many items are broadcast on the SCARC-L email service and it would be redundant to repeat these items in a newsletter. If members wish to provide items, please send directly to Lorianne via email at brilorphoto@mac.com to be considered for inclusion in the next issue

Public notice of meetings

Dawn Payne to research adding club meetings to the NJ Herald website and newspaper pages.

April Dinner/Spring Fling

Lorianne Brunsch to research – Lafayette House, Franklin Fire Hall, Franklin American Legion

Walter Murphy to research – Branchville Legion

Option for some time in April, club to cover food costs. Either BYOB or Bar tab depending on location.

Bouvet Island Dx Expedition

Motion made by John Santillo to contribute to the expedition to support and possibly obtain club logo on the website.

Field Day

Request to purchase storage/stacking shelves by Kelly Leavitt for storage/transport of the new field day computers. – All in favor to approve purchase.

Thanks to Dawn Payne for hosting meeting.

Adjourn at 10:00 pm

THE LOST ART OF DIRECT CONTACTS—N2WM

As a few of our members found out during the 72 Hour power outage at our repeater site from the Nor'easter that wrecked our counties power grid contacts on direct, or Simplex over some reasonable distances on 2-meter FM are possible.

In the 1950's and 60's if you operated on 6 or 2 meters the mode was AM and most stations ran something like 20 to 50 watts. That is input power to the finals of your transmitter. So, most stations had about 10 to 30 watts output. Of course, stations ran 3 to 5 element beams or 6 and 7 up to 11 element beams on 2. Mobiles on 6 and 2 meters ran HALO antennas. These were Horizontal polarization antennas and had no gain.

I remember before the repeaters were common, working several stations on Sunday mornings on 6 meters all over north Jersey and I had all of 12 watts output on AM and a 4-element beam.

Now it seems we as Hams are overly dependent on repeaters and our 2-meter FM stations at home are meant to work the repeaters in our area and no other stations on simplex.

At my home I have both a 6 and 2-meter station and rotatable Horizontal beams and I use SSB and CW (soon to try digital). With 100 watts I can work stations in Maryland to Massachusetts. That is something I cannot do on FM with 50 watts and a vertical antenna.

I am not saying you should run out and buy equipment for 6 and 2 that have SSB/CW capabilities but please review your stations 2-meter FM abilities. Perhaps better feedline and antennas with better performance (gain) and if you have any antennas on other bands that you rotate maybe add a vertically polarize 2-meter beam so you can extend your FM simplex abilities.

If you would like to know more about how horizontal polarization over non-line of site paths is superior to vertical ask Andrea, K2EZ at the next club meeting.

73 Walt N2WM

GIVING OLD TECHNOLOGY A NEW LIFE IN THE MODERN WORLD—BY ANDREW SCHMERTZ, CORRESPONDENT, NJTV NEWS—ARTICLE PROVIDED BY AD2P, DAWN PAYNE

You may think ham radio is part of the same bygone era of telegraphs, fax machines, and scenes from the Netflix show, “Stranger Things,” but students at the New Jersey Institute of Technology are giving the century-old technology a new voice in this social media world.

“That is probably my favorite part of ham radio, is just the ability to talk to be able to talk to so many people from around the world, from so many different backgrounds and exchange some simple data. It’s a lot of fun,” said Josh Vega, a junior at NJIT.

Ham radio is making a comeback after it proved to be the last line of defense when communications systems failed. During and after the hurricane in Puerto Rico, ham radio was often the only way to communicate with emergency first responders. It doesn’t need internet access or cellphone towers to work, and the signal can travel around the world.

“When they had the major hurricane season that knocked out many of the communications systems and the power on the island, amateur radio was the primary form of communication back to the United States,” said Nathaniel Frissell.

Frissell is an assistant research professor and founder of HAMSCI, a group formed to join hams and scientists. NJIT is holding a conference this weekend to review data collected by ham radio operators during the solar eclipse. The purpose is to find out how part of the atmosphere that carries radio signals was affected.

“The conference joins ham radio operators and professional scientists, and we’re very interested in studying the electrically charged portion of the upper atmosphere known as the ionosphere,” said Frissell. “It’s key in radio communications, satellite communications and navigation systems. And also it gives us information about what’s happening in space around the earth, as well.”

There are about 14,000 ham radio operators in New Jersey. Students say the ham radio club is growing, thanks to efforts by Frissell in merging the hobby with science.

“Just getting into it you learn how far your radio signal can go. It depends on so many things in the atmosphere — how the sun is doing, how many sunspots there are. It doesn’t surprise me at all that people can do real important science with it,” said Kyle Watt, a senior at NJIT.

“There’s a generation gap. Everyone now has cellphones and the internet, and to learn you can do this all through radio waves, between AM and FM, it really encouraged a lot of them,” said Andrew Gerrard, professor of Physics at NJIT.

The scientists at NJIT say they are very pleased working with the ham radio operators; They have their own equipment, they’re all over the world and they’re very enthusiastic. They’re using an old technology for the modern day theory of crowd sourcing to help science.

Video available at <https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/giving-old-technology-new-life-modern-world/>

COAX JUMPER ANOMALY DISCOVERED— KW3U

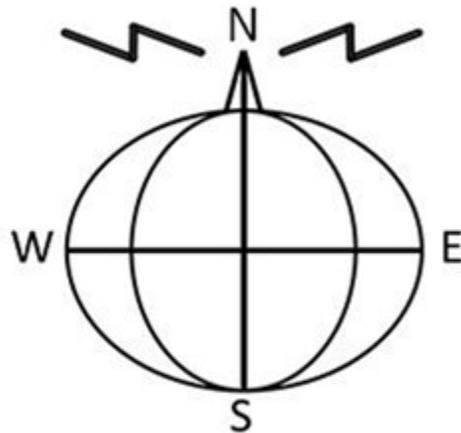
Recently since installing a ic-7300 at the station, I noticed a difference on the rigs swr display and the manual tuner swr display on 20 meters and up, usually where I dx and use this rig. I hadn't seen this problem on my "boatanchor" transmitters or on the Yae-su digital station so verified that was still good. That pretty much left the radio or the coax jumper. The other manual tuner with a different antenna connected did the same thing so at least the tuner was ok. I pulled the jumper out and replaced it with one of my new 3 ft rg8x and the problem was resolved.

Continuity, measured good with a voltage ohm meter, however it was a homebrew with no markings on the coax, another of my great hamfest finds. Guessing it was 75 ohm catv or something, anyway one of those annoying things to troubleshoot, but not as bad as the time I had the squelch cranked up from a previous day of 10 meter repeater fun, and the next day thought the rigs receiver died, that took a while.

Love this hobby, always learning something.

Cheers Jim kw3u

SUSSEX COUNTY



AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
W2LV Northwest New Jersey

www.scarcnj.org