

Rag Chew

Suffolk County Radio Club News

Over 60 Years of Service to the
Amateur Radio Community - Established 1947
<http://suffolkcountyradioclub.org>

Club Officers

President

Tim, kc2lin

Vice President

Bill, kc2rbu

Repeater Director

Joe, n2qpd

Treasurer

Art, w2alw

Corresponding Secretary

Dom, n2ufx

Rag Chew

Scott, kc2ozm

Webmaster

Chris, n2abg

W2DQ Frequencies

2M Repeater

145.210, PL 136.5

145.210, PL 110.9 (Aux)

440 Repeater

446.625, PL 110.9

220 Repeater

(currently offline)

224.680, PL 103.5

SCRC Address

Suffolk County Radio Club
16 Silver Pine Drive
Medford, NY, 11763

SCRC Meetings

The Suffolk County Radio Club meets every third Tuesday of the month, 8:00 – 10:00 PM, at the address below:

Grace Lutheran Church
240 Mastic Road
Mastic Beach, NY 11951



A Message from the Prez...

By Tim, kc2lin

A year ago, the future was looking extremely bleak financially for the Suffolk County Radio Club, (Long Island's Oldest Radio Club). We needed to make some difficult decisions. We had been meeting for some years at the Bohemia Rec Center on Ruzika Way in Islip and it was an expense which was taxing our meager SCRC Treasury. Fund raising had been and continues to be a "challenge". Along with the expense of renting the Rec Center was the need to have a certain percentage of members to actually be residents of Islip Town and paperwork needed to be submitted with signatures. I was not going to continue our relationship with Islip under false pretenses.

These two issues were all I needed to make the decision to discontinue our agreement with Islip. I wrote a letter to the Town of Islip thanking them for their support and the fine work the Rec Center employees gave us over the years. I let our SCRC members know we needed to find a new, more affordable "home" and Bill Lunt, kc2rbu, was able to convince the fine people at his church, The Grace Lutheran Church, to let us use their facilities. Talk about prayers being answered!

This was the beginning of an interesting Ham Radio Year for many of us.

We have a new look on both our website thanks to Brian, n2pzb, who obtained a new web address for us and hosted on his company's server, Chris, n2abg, who took over the webmaster duties, and on our new club newsletter, *The Ragchew*, created and published by Scott, kc2ozm. Thanks Guys! We found ourselves participating in many Amateur Radio related events both as individuals and as a cohesive group. First off was HRU (Ham Radio University) last January. A few of us carpooled to HRU and had a great time. There are Forums covering many various aspects of Ham Radio, as they say, something for everyone! If you haven't been to one make a point of going this January 11th.

Next up was the Suffolk County Half Marathon which a couple of us helped with doing communications at different check point/ watering stops. It was early spring and

(Continued on page 2)



The SCRC Newsletter is published monthly. If you have any news of interest, unusual Amateur Radio contacts, or just feel like getting your name in print, send the details via email to the editor and publisher, Scott, kc2ozm, sconover@optonline.net.

Prez Message

(continued from page 1)

cold, but what a well run event, which was for me , very satisfying to participate in and great practice for message handling techniques. Not long after that as the weather warmed up , we had a “work party” at Bill’s, emptying out our equipment trailer, continuing some of the repairs I had started at my home and getting rid of junk and sorting the “good stuff”. We checked cables for continuity, checked antenna parts and reloaded most of it back into the trailer. It was absolutely amazing! We really threw very little out but suddenly we had a trailer with a good deal of extra space! Art took some of the cables needing TLC and repaired them with his own time and money and Brian, n2pzg, did the same with a beam antenna.

Moving right along the calendar , was our Mini Field Day (midnight barbeque – a perennial idea of Art, w2alw) which we had at Bill’s backyard. I can truly say we had a blast getting the kinks out of our equipment and getting ready for Field Day. We decided to “do” Field Day with The Brookhaven Lab Radio Club and again, Bill came through with permission to set up and operate right on the grounds of the Grace Lutheran Church. This turned out to be the most fun I have ever had at an A.R.R.L. Field Day event. The two clubs “worked” very well together and I am sure we’ll do it again. Bill had obtained the use of a super HF rig from Dennis Dura, k2dcd, at the A.R.R.L. which was almost everything need to set up a full HF station in a watertight shipping container. Brian, n2pzg, brought his “cherry picker”. This vehicle was awesome in it’s ability to assist with antenna placement and support and then in making your President virtually fearless in combating tree limbs and dizzying heights while taking power lines down!

A World War Two era Army jeep complete with mounted machine gun and Army HF radio rig was there also thanks to Brian, k2evd, and his brother which made for some great photos ops. At the end of Field Day wrap up on Sunday, Greg, k2sbk, very generously agreed to bringing the SCRC trailer back to his home to continue working on the marker lights. Greg, my XYL and Bill’s XYL both thank you!

Soon after Field Day we did a stand by for com-



munication support right at the Grace Lutheran Church for their Eleventh Hour Teen Gospel Concert. This was a laid back event in terms of EmComm and that’s a good thing! Our services were unneeded but the saying goes, “Better to have it and *not* need it than to need it and *not* have it”!

Next up in Ham Radio Events on Long Island was the MS 150 held out on the East End benefiting Multiple Sclerosis research for a cure. This two day bike-a-thon covers 150 miles starting in Southampton to Montauk, back to Sag Harbor and then over the ferry to Shelter Island the first day. We stayed at a beautiful retreat overnight and the next day the course ran to Greenport, Orient Point, back to Riverhead and ended up back at the Elks Lodge in Southampton. If there is one event you decide to “work” you’ll greatly enjoy “doing” the MS 150. My friend Tom Daley and his Southampton Elks provided a truly warm and safe starting line / finish line haven complete with a barbeque at the end! (Now if I can get Tom to get his Tech....!)

Following the MS 150 was an event which saw its first inception here in Suffolk County this year, the Alexander’s Angels Buddy Walk at Heckscher State Park in Islip. This became a joint venture of the Brookhaven ARES and The Suffolk County Radio Club with Ted, n2nvz heading the operation. This event supports people and families affected by Downs Syndrome. We ended up doing double duty as EmComm/Traffic control because of the crossing of foot and car traffic at some of our check points. I was very proud of how everybody worked so well together and also showed the public what Ham Radio can do! Somewhere in there was a SKYWARN Training Session held at

S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook which some of us attended... some to re-certify , others to get their first SKYWARN training. SCRC still stands as a SKYWARN Prepared Amateur Radio Club and if you need training or re certification, contact me!

This brings me to the last “official” Ham Radio event of the year (unless you count Straight Key Night as “this” year). Last weekend , starting at 1900 hrs Friday, December 5th and finishing at 1900 hrs Saturday, December 6th, some of us were in attendance and operating the radios at the National Weather Service (NWS), Upton, which is on the grounds of Brookhaven National Laboratory for SKYWARN Recognition Day. Let me simply say, if you weren’t there, you missed out on a great Amateur Radio event. Make plans to be there next year and pray that conditions are at least as good as we had.

With all that said, this past year was a transition year which has been hard at times but in retrospect, I feel very strongly that The Suffolk County Radio Club will only continue to gain strength. I am sure some of you may have noticed a slight shift in focus with the SCRC in this narrative. If there is one thing I’d like to be remembered for as your President, it would be in helping direct the club and it’s members to a community service orientation. What a great “hobby” we share which can give so much to our community and have such great fun doing so! I sometimes “almost” feel guilty when “working” an event. We can and should regain our A.R.R.L. Special Services Club Designation. All that is need for this to happen is for us ALL to get out and “WORK” (ha ha) more events! I am sure I left something and somebody out... forgive me it was not on purpose. If I ever write a book you’ll be in it! Thank you *all* for what you have done to make this club work. ■

**Next SCRC Club Meeting...
December 16th!
Be There!**

ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration

Registration remains open through Sunday, December 21, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Technician License Course, Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient.

For more information or to register for any of these courses, visit the Continuing Education Program page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator. ■

PL-259 Connector

Want a good video on installing a PL-259 Connector? This is a six minute video that can be shown at a club meeting.

Installing a PL-259 on RG-213

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1nabA6yMol>

Installing a PL-259 on RG8X

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzXXjzmA-IE&feature=related> ■

Club Gavel Competition

A benefit of being an ARRL affiliated club is being eligible to participate in gavel competitions of select ARRL- sponsored contests.

There are eight events that are designated as Affiliated Club Competitions (ACC) for ARRL and RAC affiliated clubs:

- January VHF Sweepstakes
- RTTY Roundup (January)
- International DX Contest (Feb and March)
- June VHF QSO Party
- September VHF QSO Party
- November Sweepstakes
- 160-Meter Contest (December)
- 10-Meter Contest (December)

In order for a club to be listed there must be a minimum of three entries from club members in good standing who reside and operate within the club territory.

Complete rules can be found on the web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-all.html>

Your club must be listed as an active affiliated club at the time of the contest, so be sure to submit your annual report on time to remain on the active club roster. (Inactive clubs can move back to active status by submitting an annual report and a current club roster.)

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/forms/fsd2/> ■

Exam Prep Help on iPhone/iPod Touch...

More information/screenshots can be found here:

<http://www.patrickjmaloneyllc.com>

Part 97 reference material will be added in the 1.1 releases of the application. ■

HRU 10th Anniversary Recognition Award

Object: to recognize stations who have contributed to the growth of the Ham Radio University concept by working them on the air.

An award will be given to those stations with a minimum number of contacts with these stations.

Dates: December 1, 2008, through January 11, 2009.

Modes: All bands and modes. Count stations once per band and mode.

Points: Contact with all stations are worth 1 point except W2V HRU special event station is worth 2 points. W2V will be QRV from Jan 3rd thru Jan 11th.

Call: CQ HRU from Callsign/10

Exchange: Callsign and name.

Log entries: Date, UTC time, Band, Mode, Callsign, Name.

Log submission deadline: March 1, 2009.

HRU Contributors who may be worked for credit:

K1RFD K1ZM K2BJG K2CX K2DCD K2DO K2KJI K2KV K2LJH K2RBU K2WR K3UFG

KA1CVV KA2D KA2EJD KA2NRR KA2RGI KB2IRH KB2SCS KB2TQX KC2GOG KC2JCB

KC2KY KC2LIM KC2LSB KS2G N1XL N2FF N2GA N2GYI N2HPO N2IMF N2MUN N2NFI

N2QHV N2RQ N2STU N2TKA N2TX N2YBB NA2P NY2L W1AGP W1RFI W2FX W2GW W2ILP

W2IRT W2KRM W2QUV W2TLC W2UQ W2VU WA2CDL WA2CNV WA2GUG WA2KWP WA2RMZ

WA2SUH WA3PZO WB2AMU WB2BEZ WB2CIK WB2LUA WB6NOA WJ2V WY2U

Submissions: Please email all logs to: N2MUN@arrl.net

For additional information about Ham Radio University(HRU) go to: HamRadioUniversity.org

HRU 2009 Committee ■

Space!



2 Cents from the Editor...

I enjoy many facets of our Amateur Radio hobby. There's much fun to be had, but so little time! I like pretty much anything that has to do with flight; I love airplanes, and am fascinated with space travel. I live very close to Macarthur airport, so I very often will have the tower frequency tuned in (119.3 for tower, 118.0 for departure) while bumbling around the house.

I've attempted to contact the astronauts in the ISS many times, but haven't been successful. Their frantic schedule to finish the ISS before the shuttles are retired in 2010 pretty much keeps them off the radio these days. However,

- the astronauts are very active with ARISS. I will
- listen in on any ARISS contact that can be heard
- in our area.
- My question and proposal is this. As a club, why
- not pursue aligning with a school and submit-
- ting papers to have an ARISS contact? It would
- be a great learning experience for the kids, and
- provide us with a real ham project. Thoughts,
- anyone? If we do pursue this, it will not happen
- overnight. The process is a bit involved, and
- there is about a 2 year wait for schools.
- For more information on the ARISS program,
- go here:
- <http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/> ■

What's News with You?

Rag Chew is always looking for interesting tidbits to publish about or from our SCRC members. Have something you want to get into the newsletter? Let us know! Email the editor...
sconover@optonline.net

Dues are Due, Dude!

It's that time of year when we must loosen up those wallets and dig out the hard earned greenbacks to support the SCRC. Membership in the SCRC is really a fantastic bargain. Where else can you get a full year's worth of entertainment and fun for a measly \$25? Heck, at that rate, get a membership for the entire family!

Please fill out the membership form below, and then carefully follow the big dotted line and cut out the form. For those of you not trustworthy with scissors, ask your XYL for help. Send it to the address indicated with your check, and you're in!

Suffolk County Radio Club Membership Form

Membership in the Suffolk County Radio Club is \$25 for one year. Dues are payable by personal check. DO NOT mail cash. Make your check payable to "The Suffolk County Radio Club"; make sure you write in the lower left corner of the check in the "For" or "Memo" line "Dues", and then add your call sign and the year you are paying for... ex. (Dues, kc2ozm, 2009). Membership starts on January 1 and ends on December 31 of the current year regardless of when you joined.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Call Sign

Telephone

Cell Phone

Email Address

Current License Level:

Technician

General

Extra

ARRL Member

Yes

No

Please return completed application and check to:

Art Weiss

139 Tarpon Ave

Medford NY 11763