

"DRUMLINS RUMBLINS"- FEBRUARY 2026



WE'RE meeting at the **WAYNE COUNTY SECOND FLOOR EOC ROOM**
Wayne County Public Services Building 7227 Rte 31 Lyons NY 14489

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH MEETING START 7:30PM

REMEMBER: The front door and the EMO entrance will be unlocked from 6:30-7:30pm.
So arrive in this time period for an easy entry



***YOU HAVE A LITTLE LEEWAY TO GET IN UNTIL 7:55PM!** (Lately, the broom is keeping the door open.)



HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BE THE LAST BAD WX NOTICE!

The Wednesday night meeting, right now, there is an 80% chance of a snow-ice mix. It is early of course for now.

Watch the DARC Google for a cancellation. I think I finally got all the non-Google members email addresses added on to the club email. If for some reason you can't get to an email device you may text me on my **cell number** (315-871-8767),

beforehand. I will get on the 685 and 745 repeaters for announcements at least on the half hours, too, AT 6:00PM. There is nothing important enough for a DARC meeting for any members to go out in nasty WX.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

As I type the President's Korner we are over the 100" of snow for the 2025-2026 winter season! Yikes! Plus, it is the 4th earliest to do so! (1978, 2003 & 1970 at 138.2", 112" 102.5" respectively.) The cold? Oh, my XYL has been sputtering a lot grumpy phrases putting up with this cold. (Some of those phrases are pretty close to my Army language. Hi hi.) I know it was a relief to be able to stay home in January with Mother Nature not looking to kind to travel. A few days before our usual third Wednesday night meeting this January, this OM was officially 80. I had been officially retired 25 years from teaching. Yea, no kidding. It has gone too fast, too. No one has taken me up yet to slow time down for me. Any who, my days of surviving snowy roads and goofy drivers are just as far in the past and holing in sure is better. My Dad use to say, "Watching the bad weather inside looking out of a window is a joy." We will see what Mother Nature brings for the rest of the winter. That rodent in PA-land says we still have 6 more weeks of winter. :-{

In the meantime, I have to mention two unfortunate items. One is the passing of DARC member N2IZV Rus's XYL Marianne. But for the Hamill family, we only get to see OMs, YLs, XYLs, YMs and hyrmonics when we have a Spring Fling dinner out in the April and or more so our August picnic. It is the nature of our "radio," as my XYL describes out ham radio, normally it is not a whole family we see at meetings. I have talked to Marianne at several of our Spring Flings. The BOD has approved a \$100 donation to Laurel House in Newark in honor of Marianne. Of course, our condolences go out



to Rus and his family and friends.

Just within a week of me typing this article, DARC member Harold Cheetham has become a SK (Silent Key.) Harold was a Director on our DOB. Every time I finally emailed out the Drumlin Rumblins newsletter, Harold would email me back, "It's up there.," meaning he had downloaded the newsletter to our Drumlins website. I will personally miss that "It's up there.," each month to say the least. Harold, may you have 599 signals, no QRM QRM or QSB at your new QTH: .-- ..------ -.~. ... -.~ !! The BOD is in the process of voting a donation to the Wilmot Cancer Center.

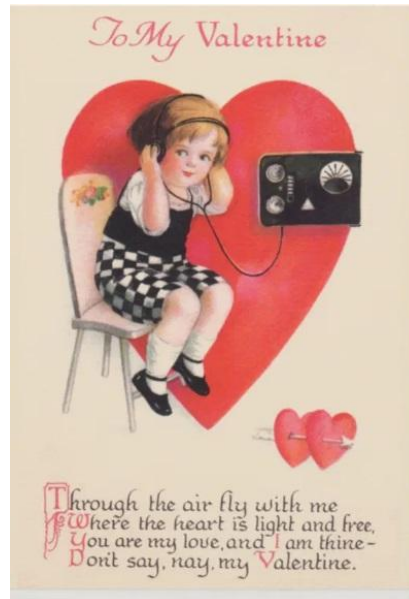


This means, DARC needs a new Director to fill in Harold's empty place. Thanks to a lot of work and reorganizing our meetings and doing business by past President Bill KD2WNW, it is very minimal the BOD needs to physically get

together. What little business conducted is usually by email. (Which this President is very thankful for Bill's past work.) Would a DARC member be kind to volunteer for Director? Please, contact me or any BOD member.

Important to mention, the editor of the Drumlins Rumblins (Me), needs someone **to volunteer** getting the newsletter "...up there," downloaded on the club website! The editor has no idea how it is done and even chicken thinking of doing it.

That's all I have for this time. 88 & 73, Dave KB2KBY



RACES-ARES FEBRUARY 2026



FROM GEORGE BASTEDO:

The dates for the **Ginna Drills** are:

August 25, 2026 – State Evaluated Ginna **Hostile Action-Based Exercise**

October 6, 2026 – FEMA Hostile **Action-Based Evaluated Exercise**

There may be an opportunity for some additional play for RACES: Both for backup Comms. Not sure yet.

One person at the Walworth Town Hall

One at the staging area in Ginegaw Park. Sounds like we will **need more** than the bare minimum of ops!!!!

There will be opportunities for prior training and new volunteers it is easy to get a RACES badge. As we get closer and find what Aimee Phillips the DOSE EMO guru is doing with the Sheriff van teams.

THIS EMAIL FROM TOM KB2NCI: (TNX, Tom, for helping me. Hi hi.)



Hello all,

You all have either helped me with public service events in the past or expressed a desire to help. If you no longer wish to be on my list for these, let me know and I will delete you. Thanks for your consideration.

I am beginning to assemble the teams for the public service events that I have the pleasure to lead for 2026. Please consider volunteering for as many as you can so we can provide the level of safety and course communications that we have become known for. Having access to a hand held and mobile radio is helpful for all events, and I have a small supply of those to loan out if necessary.

These are the events and dates I am aware of at this time.

Saturday April 25--**Wild Water Derby**, Shortsville--usually 11am to 3pm

Sunday April 26--**Seneca 7** running relay race, around Seneca Lake--this is an all day event 6:30am to 8pm, and I usually have you cover a half day shift

Friday June 19 (I think)--**Parade for the Shortsville Fire Department Carnival**--we are usually there from 4pm to 8pm

Sunday July 12--**Ironman Musselman 70.3**--Geneva and Seneca County--shifts run from 6am to 3pm

Saturday August 1--**Phelps Sauerkraut Festival "Krauter" races**--Phelps--shifts run from 6:30am to noon

Sunday September 13 (I think)--**Finger Lakes Triathlon**--Canandaigua and Ontario County--shifts from 6:30am to 2pm

Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31--**Pumpkin Patrol** on the Thruway overpasses--8pm to midnight--**Dave KB2KBY organizes this**

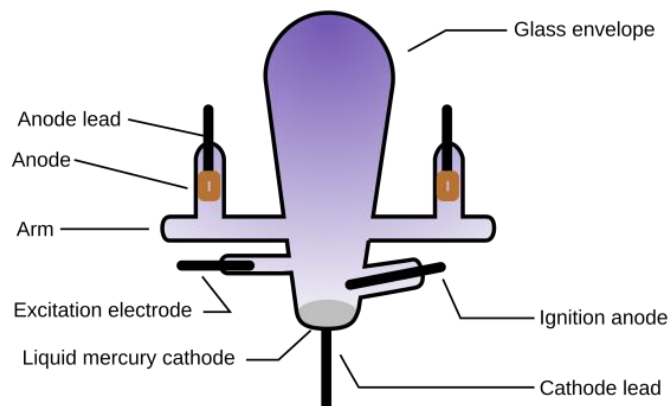
I will be contacting some of you directly to inquire if you can cover similar posts and times as last year.

Thanks so much for your consideration in volunteering to help with these events. Contact me if you have questions and let me know if you can help.

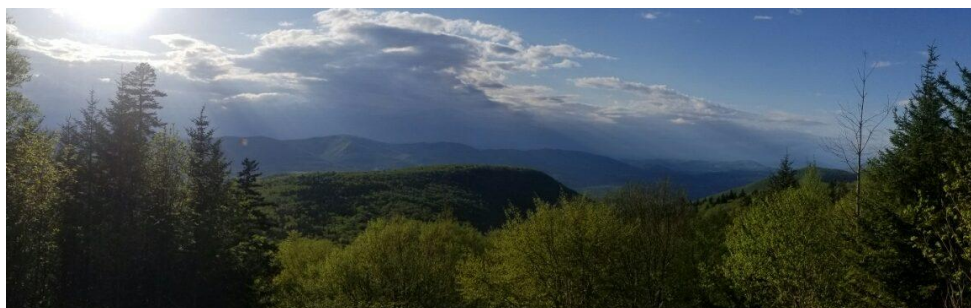
73, Tom



FEBRUARY PROGRAM: MERCURY-ARC RECTIFIER??? Hopefully this time.



A **mercury-arc valve** or **mercury-vapor rectifier** or (UK) **mercury-arc rectifier** is a type of electrical rectifier used for converting high-voltage or high-current alternating current (AC) into direct current (DC). What? Non-technical Dave here I have no idea what this is or how used. Come and see with me just what “this thing” is. Hi hi. Sounds interesting!



A Ham Radio Valentine's Day

[February 21, 2021](#) by **KM1NDY**

Oddly, WX1MAR and I celebrated Valentine's Day this year. Odd because, well, in 27 years we have almost never celebrated Valentine's Day... But! We had a great excuse! I had secured callsign K1S (get it?) for the “Happy Hams Valentine's Day” special event station. And since February 14th was a Sunday this year, it meant we had a great reason to get on the air and get contacts.



We spent Saturday scouting around south central Massachusetts looking for a perfect operating location. Which also inspired the thought of a future attempt at the Parks-on-the-Air Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio (POTA RaDAR) [Lion Award](#) – you'll have to look that one up yourself! We decided on Whitehall State Park in Hopkinton, Massachusetts (yup, where the Boston Marathon Starts), namely for two reasons: 1) we could operate near our van, 2) we could set up at the Whitehall Reservoir shoreline and theoretically use the frozen lake for a radiofrequency reflecting pool, and 3) it was Parks-on-the-Air (POTA) entity K-2464.



After hoisting both a 40M (oval) off-center fed dipole and 20M (square) half-wave end-fed into the trees, we set up our dualing Yaesu FT-891A transceivers, with autotuners and bandpass filters.



[I bet you didn't think I could find a Valentine's Day ham article, right? Surprise, surprise ,surprise. Hi hi. I cannot imagine a POTA in winter but my old Army MARS CW mentor Dick Corp W2WC has sure done it. Check out his QRZ sight. Of course the Winter FD with our SIARC friends was cancelled due to the extreme cold at KB2NCI's QTH. Burrrrrr. I was happy for that. Hi hi. So, I thought this would be a nice replacement of no WFD photos, etc. Remember those days when we were young and new and could tolerate the cold and have fun? Hi hi. I had seven Boy Scouts winter campouts under my belt. Pat KD2PER Welch of SIARC, I wonder if you have been lucky to do a winter POTA? Hi hi.]



The 30 degree temperature cut our activation down to less than 3 hours. Regardless, WX1MAR still managed to pull out 91 contacts on 20M, while I got 81 on 40M.

So thank you POTA hunters! We will be sending a customized Valentine as a QSL to all of the unique operators involved in our 172 total QSOs. What an amazing day to play radio! Happy Valentine's Day! 73s & 88s!



Dick Corp W2WC on a POTA with grandson Will



[Sorry, I had to get Dick in there. Talk about dedication and always CW only! Sorry if I had him in another newsletter. I am amazed at what this guy can still do at 85. I've dreamt of doing this stuff but never achieved it. Jealous a little? You bet ya. I never have met a CW guy like Dick who listens to CW CDs he has made in the car driving. Drive my Honey nuts.

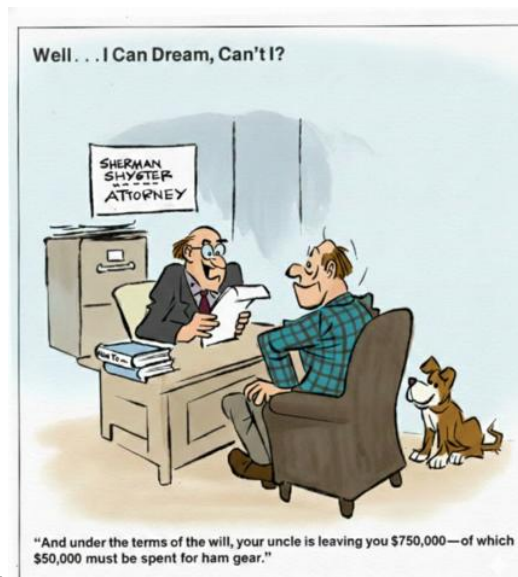
Hi hi. Both of Dick's sons are hams and his brother are CW ops, too. Gotta put a plug in for my CW! Hi hi. I think grandson "Will" is named after grampa for sure.]



TNX

my XYL!

["88" is the only Morse code my Sweetie XYL knows and she can "send" it correctly, too. Hi hi. If you have an Android phone look up **CW Studio** in the app store. It is the best app for CW and a great learning tool. I play around with it all the time. The straight key and paddle work the best I have seen. It is fun.]



TNX to Jim KC2OBM

for this cartoon!

SIARC HEALTH and WELFARE NET: [Cool lead in for KB2NCI. Hi hi.]



STILL GOING STRONG!!!. Kudos, Tom! Get acquainted with some of our SIARC friends and the surrounding counties. Thank you, Tom, for being so patient and sacrificing your time. (Tom's XYL is a saint with his "radio.")

Tom's **SIARC health and welfare net** is open to all hams that can hit the **146.820 repeater (tone 110.9)**, either mobile or from your QTH. Just listen to Tom's or the NCS's instructions always given first as the net starts like we all know as hams and used to a SOP. So listen for the SOP at the beginning of the net. **Only the SECOND Wednesday of the month, the SIARC meeting night, there is no net.**



Odd and Ends: (TNX, Tom, for your help.)

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/fivewkcal.php> will give you all you do! Whew.

The **New York State RACES net** is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 7281kHz LSB and members are always welcome to check in and get more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 7081.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. Forty meters has worked very well, so for the time being, the net will remain there. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try! NYS RACES is also doing testing on 60 meters. It is a great band for these regional communications, so all members should have that capability. For more information on RACES, go to [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service \(RACES\) | Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services](#)

More info from KB2NCI: The following is a list of digital HF nets you can listen and check into. Thanks to Paul KD2DO for this information.

Here are the digital nets in our area that you can listen into and now join.

*** MID-ATLANTIC Net: @ 1000L Sunday morning on 7.068 MHz USB.

*** NJ NBEMS Net: @ 0900L Sunday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NH NBEMS Net: @ 0700L Saturday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NY NBEMS Net: @ 0800L Saturday morning on 3.583 MHz USB.

*** US East NBEMS: @ 1900L Wednesday evening on 3.536 MHz USB.

*** MIDTN Net: Tues, Thurs & Sat 1930L on 3.582.5 MHz USB.

and for a change of pace

Feld Hell 30m net, Wed 2000 ET on 10.1410, FSKH105

Feld Hell 40m net, Thu 2100 ET on 7.0890, FSKH105

Feld Hell 80m net, Fri 2200 ET on 3.5835, FSKH105

Be sure your TxID and RxID buttons are activated and green on FLDIGI, to follow the mode used.

A **new emergency and weather alert system** is now **available for New Yorkers**. Through the free 333111 system, you'll receive text alerts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services about severe weather, significant power outages and shelter locations in your area. To receive these alerts, text 333111 and the county you wish to receive the alerts for (do not add the word "county" or any spaces or punctuation). You can add more than one county. If you are already signed up for NYALERT, you are all set. They will be the same messages. If you no longer wish to receive these messages, text STOP to 333111.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has designated **14.300Mhz** as a worldwide center of activity frequency for emergency traffic. There are two nets that run from 7am to 10pm eastern time daily. The **Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net**, aka Intercon, (www.intercontinentalnet.org) operates from 7am to noon and the **Maritime Mobile Services Net** (www.mmsn.org) operates daily from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times. Listen in for some interesting conversations. During Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30),

you can find some interesting traffic from the **Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org)** on 14.325Mhz days and 7.268Mhz nights, when a hurricane is within 300 miles of land.

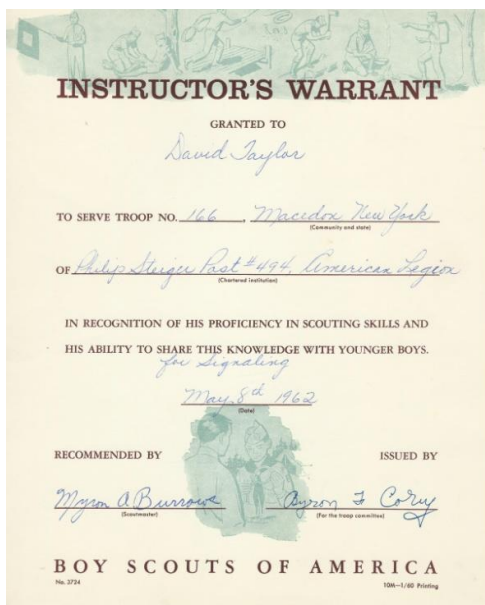


TNX, Andrew

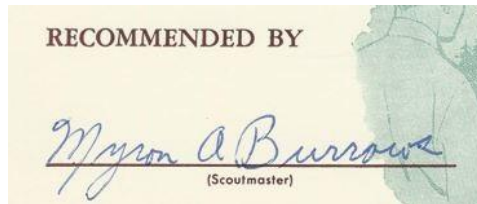
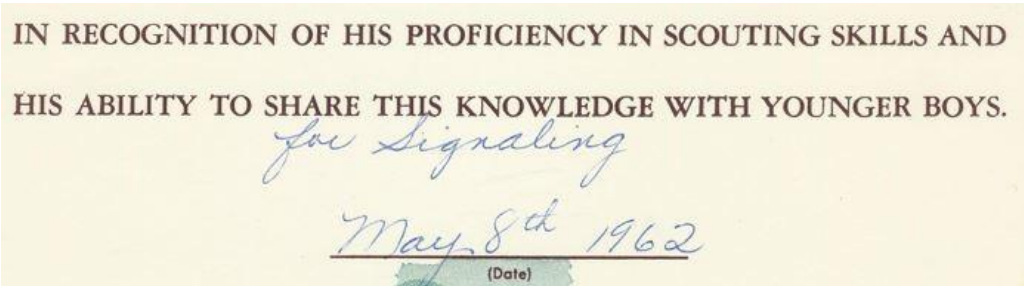
KD2SZT!

Okay, DARC members, you have been improving on getting newsletter “thingys” to me, especially cartoons. BUT, I need articles, pictures or both or whatever. I did get a text from Stu KC2KJO with pictures and a small blurb about a couple of his new ham inventions. I will have those in the March newsletter. I put the Valentine POTA in place of Stu’s stuff because of February has Valentines Day (Yes, I am a sentimentalist, period. **Stu, next month for sure.**) At the SIARC February meeting, did KB2NCI mention doing a SSB winter contest the end of February to replace the cancelled WFD? I’m getting better at downloading anything on the PC or texts. (To a degree, you can teach an old horse new tricks. Hi hi.)

Here’s a blast from the past! I was rummaging thru some old manila folders and found this little treasure my Mom kept.



I’ve told all of you, I learned CW in the Boy Scouts. Will here is my Macedon Troop 166 certificate showing my completion of “Signaling” merit badge. Semaphore, using flags, was the big thing for my time but I taught CW classes as it was all base on Morse code however used: lights, sound, flags, taping, etc. The certificate is hard to read. So, here it is blown up parts to read.



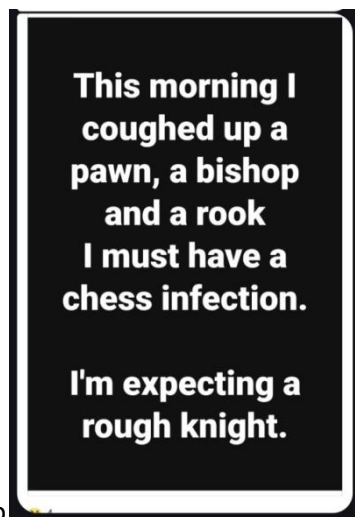
Here is my old Scoutmaster Mike Burrows signature:

It was Scout Sunday at

church today, as I finish typing up this newsletter. Troop 166 and 6166 members were present for the celebration.



They use our church for their meetings. You can see on the certificate the Troop was #166, my old alma mater. I told them all I have told you that Morse code saved me from "hot" Vietnam and my seven winter campout badges taught me more of Arctic survival than the Army taught my time. (That Arctic Warfare is very serious these days.) When the XYL and I visit the Taylor grave site, I drive by Mike's stone and still say, "Thanks, Mike."



TNX to my XYL!

See you next month! 88 & 73