

"DRUMLINS RUMBLINS"- APRIL 2026



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

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15TH 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.)
[REMEMBER: Bring some \$\$\$\$ for the 50/50!]

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

It was finally nice to see faces at our **March DARC meeting** after having to cancelling the January and February meetings with the bad weather those days. I admit missing two months of Tris's scones (KC2TNJ's XYL), was not a morale booster. Even my XYL was having "scone withdrawal" as I couldn't bring any scones home to her after a club meeting. Hi hi.

We are still seeing results of late of this past winter. Because of the high water coming out of Canandaigua Lake's Outlet, I see the Water Derby on April 28 in Shortsville has officially been cancelled. Unfortunately, this is another ramification of our very different winter season this year. My old homestead on 9 West Main Street in Macedon, I remember old "Mud" Creek (Its local name for us "locals."), always flooded in the creek plain between Macedon and Palmyra on Rte 31 just about every thaw in the spring. The last I knew we had officially 113" of snow. That is well above our winter

average. All of this winter was more like when I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s. It brings back some good memories but at my more “advanced” age, I will admit looking out at the weather from inside is easier than being in it.



Obviously, we have no choice to see what Mother Nature brings us for spring but we hope she is good to us. Especially with our upcoming **DRUMLINS HAMFEST this SATURDAY APRIL 18TH!!!!!!** The **setup help Friday at 4:00pm** at the Palmyra VFW would be easy and quick the more volunteers that can help! The pizza party after is always a good time and gab. **SATURDAY HAMFEST for volunteer help is at 6:00am!** This our only fund raiser DARC has each year. The finds help maintain our WA2AAZ club repeater! KA1CNF, Steve, looked at the 10 day weather forecast Saturday looks good for our hamfest hours. Keep your fingers crossed.

At our March meeting, we were pleased to see **Mike KE2EKS** as a guest. Mike’s “harmonic” son Tyler KE2SKT and his Dad got their Tech tickets at the same time. Mike has upgraded to General. Here is what Mike had in his bio on qrz.com:



(The fisherman as well. Impressive.)

Live in Palmyra NY and have been licensed since November 2024. Upgraded to General in January 2026!

I got started in HF in January 2025 and made my first contacts! Looking forward to learning more about the Xiegu G90 and getting more use out of it for POTA.

In March 2025 I got an Icom 2730A for the car and I'm enjoying using that while mobile. In December 2025 I got another Icom 2730A for the home base and set up the Xiegu G90 at home as well.

I'm often on 145.110 in Bristol, 444.850 in Rochester, and 146.520. I find simplex pretty quiet around town, but I still call out and hope to make contacts. I've talked to only a few people since November after countless times of calling CQ. If you are local and hear me, feel free to respond!

Mike, we hope to see you again. At some time we may see your “harmonic” ham as well. I have the Xiegu G90. It is nice little rig and I have the GSOC terminal as well. I will admit, I have been lazy firing up the rig lately. (Shameful, I know.) It was nice gabbing with you at the meeting.

Last! It was nice to see Doc, AB2F, since the daytime hours are stretched and with the “spring ahead” on the clocks. (Clocks? Man, am I ever old fashioned. Who say “clock” for time these days. Hi hi. Duh.) We realize family, work and life are first in any ham’s life. Therefore, getting to DARC meetings are hard to fit in your calendar. Any time anyone can get to a DARC meeting **it is nice to see faces.**

Hope to see you DARC members at the meeting, as well. 88 & 73

Bad news.

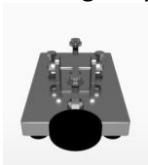


"I'm sorry to have to tell you this bad news, but his new amplifier is solid-state."

SPRING FLING

Saturday April 4th was our 2026 "**Spring Fling**." This is a nice time to see and gab with club members XYLs, YLs, harmonics and whoever comes. It is a favorite with my XYL as well as our August DARC picnic at the Palmyra VFW. (Info on picnic is coming when we get nearer to summer.) Once again we were at Cross Park in Newark on Rte 31 on the east end of the Village of Newark. KC2TNJ, Rich, said the numbers attending were down a little but us 18 who attended, it was fun. Most of us took "doggy" bags home for another meal. Hi hi.

Before we ordered our meals, we had a **short tribute** to two DARC members who are **SK**: Harold Cheetham **W2HJC** and Al Cook **K2MPE**. We celebrated their memories by sending their **callsign in Morse** code with the appropriate **SK** (Silent Key) ending and wishing they enjoy their new QTH, QRN and QRN free and 599 signals. For us "hams" there is no better



sendoff. "FB."

I really appreciate the Spring Fling-"ers" putting up with my picture taking. Being the old teacher, I like visuals as well as "words." Words? That was an expression our granddaughter Maryn told her Bompas when she was maybe 5 years old. We were in our car with Maryn and her sister Willow with Mimi (Jan) and Bompas (me). I only had a music CD going in the car. After about 20 minutes driving, Maryn spoke out. "Bompas, I need words." Hi hi. So we put a CD in with words and music in the CD player.





Even I got my “mug shot” in this time. It was fun time and the talk even extended long after the meal was eaten and moved into the parking lot. My XYL loves the Spring Fling and the August DARC picnic.



Hope to see you

Spring Fling 2027!



RACES-ARES APRIL 2026



REPOSTING THIS REMINDER – NOTICE THESE DATES !!!!!!! (I have managed to get a new volunteer. Any other hams who would like to help, please, contact me, KB2KBY.)

Ginna Drills are:

August 25, 2026 – State Evaluated Ginna **Hostile Action-Based Exercise** < - - - - **new thing!**

October 6, 2026 – FEMA Hostile **Action-Based Evaluated Exercise** < - - - - **new thing!**

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. **Watch for DARC emails!!!!**

DON'T FORGET TO **READ BELOW THE VARIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS FORM KB2NCI STARTING APRIL 26th.**



Very appropriate

for RACES. Hi hi.



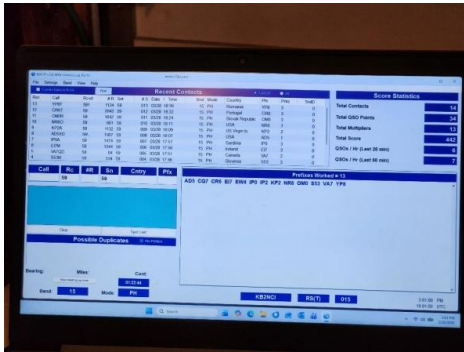
CQ World Wide WPX Contest-April 4th at KB2NIC's QTH

Last Saturday of March 28th was the CQ SSB Contest and several DARC members were present to have some fun with our SIARC friends. Tom, KB2NCI, is **very gracious** to have these Winter Field Day and other contests at his QTH. You know how many times I have had article and pictures of these events at KB2NCI's QTH. I will admit, Tom's QTH is a perfect location with space for parking and easy deployment for antennas and his garage has plenty of room. Despite the cold temp that Saturday, the "shack" was snug as a bug in a rug. If you were not there, you missed the breakfast pizza, donuts and hot and cold drinks. Our DARC ember Sabrina WD2STK made these cute little crust-free quiche delights baked in cupcake trays!!!! Oh yes, I dove into the goodies first before even taking pictures. Hi hi.



Tom already has a nice dipole antenna and there were several verticals put up as well. KB2NCI had his Yaesu FT450D there to operate. It is a nice small size for a full 100 watt rig. Here is KB2NCI's report in SIARC the "Smoke Signals" newsletter: *This past Saturday, March 28, 10 of us assembled to erect antennas and set up HF stations to operate in the CQ WPX SSB Contest. We followed the description of "Casual Contesting" to a T. This was a 48-hour contest from Friday to Sunday evening, in which the goal was to work as many Call Sign Prefixes around the world. Because we had a few different operators, we each used our call sign for the logging, instead of putting them together. The laptop with my callsign had 48 contacts and 43 different prefixes. Bill KD2SER made 109 contacts and 94 different prefixes, operating from home on Sunday alone. We had lots of food (pizza, donuts,*

casseroles, chip, etc), conversation and even got some time on the radios. Jay brought his portable tripod dipole, Keith brought his new portable antenna for POTA, Jeff brought his home made multiband vertical antenna and I used a 15-meter dipole (purchased from Lee Schutt (SK) WA2LEE) and an End Fed Half Wave 40 meter. We had a lot of hardware up, and it was fun to compare them. Among the entities contacted were Suriname, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Switzerland, Romania and Portugal. It never got above 30 degrees outside, but the garage was toasty because of Chris' propane heater. Wonderful. Those in attendance were: KC2TCM, WD2STK, KD2SER, WA2OFF, KE2DJR, KE2EKS, KD2VRZ, N2EZY, KB2KBY, and KB2NCI. (TNX, Tom, for letting me steal your "essay" for our newsletter.)



The record keeper.



Here is KB2NCI

using the little G106 the 5-watt HF transceiver and making a contact! That is half of the 10-watt allowed with SSB for QRP! That G106 had made 10 QSOs already when I arrived! This blew my mind away as I have done a lot of QRP! It is not easy working with low power output.



The garage shack.



KC2TCM using his FT817D.

There was no CW so I stayed to the sidelines watching the SSB ops do their job. As Tom's article says, the total QSOs? FB!



Of course, any contest has the “support” side session offering advice and help with their armchair and coffee in hand. Hi hi. That is fun even if you don’t operate or just being there. That is the community fun of any contest and, remember, the **2026 ARRL Field Day** is coming up the weekend of June 27-28! You can get into that community fun.



Save your \$\$\$\$\$

for our hamfest!



On April 6th, family members, friends and DARC members attended the **military interment of Alan Cook KEMPE** at the NY State Veterans Cemetery in Romulus NY just south of the Sampson State Park on Rte 96A on the east side of Seneca Lake. The cemetery area is actually the grounds where the WW2 US Navy Sampson Training and the US Air Force training base during the Korean War. NY State was really sentimental with the cemetery buildings on the site. The original base firehouse which was of WW2 a wood “temporary” structure, as was all of the WW2-Korean structures. It was nice to see NYS built exact outside replicas of the firehouse and the guard shack at the entrance of permanent material. If you have camped at Sampson State Park, the park registration building is actually one of the smaller warehouses left from WW2 and the park’s main camper course for information. The Navy and Air Force museum is worth taking the time to see. My oldest brother, Bill, who was 15 years older than me (Yes, I’m the baby of our family. Hi hi.), did his Air Force Basic there. I was just 9 years old and can just barely remember being there. As a camper Sampson is a neat place to explore of what is left of the 14,000 acre base it was.



The Palmyra American Legion Post 120 was the Honor Guard for the ceremony which was a rifle volley, the playing of taps and the folding of the American flag and presentation to Al's son. The Honor Guard commander presented three empty rifle "brass" (the spent cartridge casings), to Al's son for "duty, honor, country." Anyone who has seen a proper veteran or military burial, it is impressive, somber but uplifting and a celebration of life.

Al was a "charter" founder of our Drumblins Amateur Radio Club, Ltd. Like most of us DARC "retreads" (The military slang of a "lifer" or one who served more than the usual commitment to "Uncle Sam," but in this case long time members of DARC.), we know Al served in many capacities for DARC, especially with his technical knowledge. It was an honor for us to be there for Al and to honor his life with his Brenda, his XYL, and Al's family and friends.

In celebration of Al, because it was a cold windy sunny day, a bunch of us "retreated" to a family restaurant in Palmyra after saying good bye to AL and warmed up with hot drinks, eat a good lunch and memories. **Al, a final:**

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(TNX, AL.)



(It's not an Air Force guy but the sentiment is perfect.)



POTA MAY RARA-invitation (From the March 2026 issue of the RARA Rag...)

Hands-On Event for New-ish Hams

For those who recently earned their license or are curious about some aspects of this hobby that's really 99 hobbies, this event is for you. How recent? It's entirely up to you.

And if you have a skill to share with fellow hams, please consider being a presenter or demonstrator. In the past, we've had people demonstrate how to get on HF, working portable, digital modes, antenna construction and deployment, and Morse.

We are planning to hold this event on a Saturday in May at a local park (yes, we're aiming for one that we can activate POTA from); the 2nd or the 16th are the most likely dates. Please email education@rochesterham.org if you'd like to find out more, whether as a new-ish ham, a presenter, or both. And, as we said earlier, we leave it up to you to define "new-ish."

[Editor note: This looked interesting out of the RARA Rag. I know there are POTA hams in DARC and SIARC! Mike KE2EKS?]

DARC MEETING PROGRAM:

We're working on a program related to the ARTEMIS 2 in the news with a ham radio slant. This will be a very last minute



choice but we'll have something interesting for all. (TNX for being patient.)

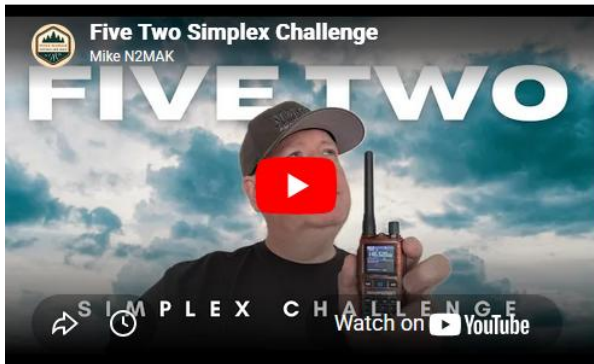
SIARC HEALTH and WELFARE NET:



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.**

Five Two Simplex Challenge



Mike N2MAK from West Henrietta, is organizing a Five Two Simplex Challenge for March and April. The goal is to call on 146.52 simplex for 52 days to make contacts and give simplex a shout out. You can do this from your car, walking with an HT or from home and it does not need to be in the Rochester area. Anywhere you are is fine. There are not any logs to keep, just get on the air. See his youtube channel for details. Be radio active!



N2MAK

If you look this up Mike on **QRZ.com** and click on **FORM**, I am sure you can get info on this. I said I'd pass it on.





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.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS 2026

from Tom KB2NCI

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:

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 ←-----THIS ONE IS SOON!

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 TOM KB2NCI if you have questions and let me know if you can help.



That is enough for me

for this month.