



DRUMLIN'S RUMBLINS

DARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2005

NEXT MEETING

February 16, 2005

Doors open at 7:pm Meeting 7:30pm

New York State

EMO

Route 31 Newark, NY

or try 146.745

MINUTES

Date: 1-19-2005

Call to Order: 1931

Welcome: KC2MBU, KB2ROP, W4ILN, N2RUS, KC2BMI, KC2HUP, KB2KBY, KB2SOZ, KE4VHA, KC2HTL, W2SWL

Guests: none

Minutes Approval: 1st KC2BMI 2nd KB2KBY

Treasures Report Approval:

1st KB2SOZ 2nd KC2HUP

Public Service: N2BEL of RARA would like a list of activities that we will have in order to "share" ham operators between both clubs.

Repeaters:

146.745 good

146.685 still in the shop

144.950 Newark node down, work needed

444.950 good

Antenna Committee: dipoles need rebuilding

Trailer Committee: none

Activities and Contests: VHF contest coming up

VE Team: none

WARECS/ RACES/ ARES: No net Feb. 6, Super Bowl Sunday.

Attendance going very good.

Public Relations: Technician classes are going good.

Newsletter: none

Remembrance/ Concerns: none

Old Business:

We still need someone to be head of the kitchen at the hamfest.

The winter dinner was excellent.

New Business:

A decision needs to be made as to what equipment to add or take off of our ARRL insurance.

KB2KBY, KB2ROP, KC2HUP, W4ILN will be in charge of the inventory of the equipment.

Upcoming Programs:

February: Jeff Jensen, N2MKT on "WSIT" One of the many new digital modes, Come ready to learn of one of the new digital modes available..

March: Rally & Radio

RACES-ARES FEBRUARY 2005

Well-we sure hope you had a nice time at your Super Bowl party! For the faithful members of the net this is a small reward for your faithfulness. Hi! It isn't much but times with family and friends are more important. In fact I am typing this just before I leave for the neighborhood party! It is a well-deserved break from the normal routine. It may well be Memorial Day before there is another time off. Hi!

I guess we better get back to some business about RACES-ARES. One of our regular check-ins on the net had a funny thing happen at the Wayne County offices. He was there to get a RACES badge just like a lot of us have. For some curious reason they said since he had a Red Cross badge they would NOT issue him a state-county badge. I thought this odd, as the badges are not the same and used for different capacities. Therefore, I saw no conflict of having two separate badges. My question is for those of you that may have been in the same situation. If it has happened to you would you please inform me. May be there is something I don't know either or have missed. I'll check into it. Plus if there is anyone who can enlighten me on this subject, please do.

This has been a funny winter. First we have precipitation in the form of rain for the winter. Then we have two weeks of

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 3

The Drumlins Leaders 04-05

President	Doug Peeso, KB2ROP	315-587-2889
V-President	Calvin Bruzee, KC2HUP	315-945-3077
Secretary	Thomas Grice, KC2MBU	315-573-5357
Treasurer	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Program	Charles Escriva, KB2SOZ	315-986-5779
Dir.	Russ Millspaw, N2RUS	315-483-8024
Director 3 yr	Bob Wilkin, W2GIV	315-923-2620
Director 2 yr	Steve Elliott, N2COJ	315-789-2701
Director 1 yr	Jeff Jenson, N2MKT	315-483-1537
Sysop .745	Bruce Blair, WB2QKO	315-597-9731
Sysop .685	Irv Walter, WA2SOK	315-597-2192
News Letter	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Club Trustee	Doug Wakeman, KC2BMI	315-331-2980

Warecs from page 1

cold and snow that brings us 15 inches of the white stuff over our average for that time of year. During that same period of winter we have seen go by the electrical power in parts of the Newark area has gone out two different times. The last time was for a period of almost ten hours in minus 9-degree temperature. Very unusual! I was a little shaken by all of this. If either occurrence had continued for any length of time, it may have been something that ARES or RACES could have been called out our help. We were lucky. Some of our members involved in the "blackouts" were prepared with battery backup 2m communications and could keep warm. One of those was N2MLD, my younger-older brother. Good going, "Bro!" KC2BMI had to use his RV's generator to keep his heat going and could use for 2m as well. There are more stories I know of members. One just does not know when things could happen. You and I could be called out for help any time. There have even been a couple of times on the state RACES net to be prepared and monitor the weather situation. It seems Mother Nature like to play with us in these weather-changing cycles. She is more prone to throw the bad stuff at us. So, a work of caution and preparation is the advice here. You prepare for a thousand days for just the one day of help! That is our mission for RACES-ARES.

(Sorry, I had to stop for a few minutes. I heard a nice clear CQ form "0-land." He kept calling and no one was returning and he was CQ FISTS. Got to stop for a FISTS member! Hi! He was from New Burlington, Iowa on 80mb. My laptop in is the shack and I keep the rig on for company. Hi! Nice QSO!)

Keep May 4th, Wednesday night, open for a "SKYWARN" orientation class. It has been a while nice NWS Buffalo has had a chance to come out for one of their classes. It is a good refresher for some of us and a good class for the newcomers. They do an excellent job showing new stuff all the time. Again, we are not called out in a SKYWARN capacity like the areas to our west and south, but one never knows. There are things to report to Buffalo that are not a SKYWARN nature but just good ground information which they want when a storm. Come and find out what it is or get refreshed on the subject. Please put the date down on your

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Amateur Radio Operators:

February, a month for red hearts, boxes of chocolate candies, cupid's arrows and hole dwelling rodents who profess meteorological premonitions. It is also the start of a great project. I received word that there is an effort to strengthen the communications and participation among the local ham groups. In the coming months you will see information about what activities are going on in the area including up coming speakers at different clubs and public service. If you have been reading this column in the past (and let's assume for my ego, you have), then you are aware of my push to get more activity in the ham community and to spread the hobby to others. What better way to do this then to have access to all the things that are happening and to bring new people along to introduce them to the fun? I will share more of this information at the meeting this month. I am excited, and I hope this is the thing that sparks the excitement needed in amateur radio.

Ye ol' ham proverb: Measure twice, cut once and then trim a little off the ends for better SWR.

Doug Peeso KB2ROP

calendar. The time will be posted in the "Drumlins Rumbblins" and on the Sunday night net. The class will be at the SEMO.

Watch for K2MPE in "QST" in the net traffic handling section. NN2H was a steady for a long time but with her new QTH I am not sure she is back on the air. K2MPE is logging in some impressive numbers. Look for him! K2MPE is our official liaison with NTS.

That is more than enough for this month. I may gab so much Irv will have a hard time finding space for it all. Hi! CU next month!73,

Dave KB2KBY

New Column??

There has been a suggestion to run a list of the local nets that may spark your interest or already have. I am asking the members to send me the Time/Day, Frequencies and purpose of those nets. The Double O Swap Net, Monroe County FM could be examples, or any you have an interest in or know of.

Looking forward to your input.

Thanks in advance, Irv wa2sok

Minutes from Page 1

50/50 Drawing: KC2HUP, donated money back to the club.

Adjournment: 2014 1st N2RUS 2nd KB2KBY

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Grice, KC2MBU

Programs are starting to shape up for the year.

From Charlie Escriva, KB2SOZ

For our February meeting, our own Jeff N2MKT will give us a talk on "WSJT" - one of the many new digital modes. Come ready to learn of one of the new weak signal modes available.

For our March meeting, we have scheduled a talk on "Rally & Radio" - come listen to how they run a road rally through several towns, coordinated over several repeaters- between the total distance covered, and the need for multiple channels for communications, Amateur Radio really shines as volunteers use multiple modes- including APRS.

If Anyone has a topic they would like to give a presentation on, feel free to drop me a line, and we'll get you in the schedule. Also, if you have an idea that you think everyone would enjoy hearing more on, let us know and we'll try and secure a person to teach us more.

Charles Escriva, KB2SOZ

E-mail Address: kb2soz@arrl.net Phone: (315) 986-5779

Web Page: <http://www.drumlinsarc.com>

CLUB ADDRESS:

Dave Taylor KB2KBY Club Trustee ,
228 W. Jackson St. Palmyra, NY 14522

Packet: Kb2kby-1 thru Newark Node

Email: kb2kby@juno.com

News Letter Stuff Send To: Irv Walter, WA2SOK
57-2881 Macedon Ctr. Rd. Palmyra, NY. 14522

Packet: DARC thru Newark 144.95

E-mail: wa2sok@rochester.rr.com

Activity and Work Nite

The first Wednesday of every month
will be a Work & Activity Night at the State EMO,

RACES NET SUNDAY

8:45 PM 146.745 Temporarily

How to Keep Having Fun During the Declining Solar Cycle

By Rod Vlach, NN0TT

February 4, 2005

Ten ways to enjoy your favorite pastime until the sunspots come back.

The resourceful Amateur Radio operator can continue to enjoy ham radio, both on and off the air, even though solar activity is on the downswing. It looks as though the current solar cycle will reach its approximate low point (least number of sunspots) sometime next year, so we may as well dig in our heels and make the best of things. Here are 10 ideas on how to cope with less than ideal operating conditions:

1) Stay on the Air!

Although the upper high frequency bands (10, 15 and 20 meters) are a lot less productive than during peak solar conditions, it gives us an opportunity to become better acquainted with the lower bands. I have never operated throughout an entire "bottomed out" cycle, and in some strange way (and being there is nothing I can do to prevent it) I am "sort of" looking forward to how well I can do with my 100 watts and vertical antenna. It's also a good time to ragchew! If your signals aren't always getting across the ocean, there are lots of in-country QSOs to be had!

2) Learn Why and How Solar Activity Affects Communications

It is rather amazing that the quality of our earthly radio communications is determined by an object that is 93 million miles away--the sun. And the greater number of sunspots there are, the more the ionosphere is "ionized," causing HF radio signals to "refract" (skip) back to earth, making global communications possible. The maximum/minimum number of sunspots occurs in a repeating 11 year cycle.

All the solar propagation terms can be confusing, even intimi-

Continued on page 4

HAMFESTS:

- Feb 26.....Horseheads, NY
n2sy@arast.org
- Mar 6..Winter Fest Williamson, NY
.n2syt@arast.org
- Apr 9..... Marletown FH..Newark NY
<http://www.drumlinsarc.com>
- May 20-21&22.....Dayton Hamfest
<http://www.hamvention.org/>
- Jun 3-5.....Rochester, NY
<http://www.rochesterhamfest.org>
- Jun 5..... Breezeshooters/Butler, PA
<http://www.breezeshooters.net>
- Jul 16.....Batavia, NY
<http://www.hamgate.net/~gram/>
- Jul 23.....Frankfort (Utica), NY
Email: tbd2626@yahoo.com
- Aug 6-7.WNY Section Convention/Williamsville, NY
Email: luke@towncountryflorist.com

Having Fun from page 3

dating. I have been able to ascertain that if the "solar flux" is up and the "K index" is down, it is good for radio communications. Although there will be occasional upward spikes, the solar flux and number of sunspots will continue heading downward for a while yet. A current solar chart resembles a "very bumpy" downhill road. Two good chart sites, the Solar Terrestrial Activity Report and WM7D's Solar Resource Page are available on the Web. K9LA has a good article on defining the solar terms.

3) Submit an Article to *QST* or the ARRLWeb

Have you ever wondered how adept you might be with a pen and paper (or keyboard and word processor) to spin out an article for *QST* or the ARRLWeb? You'll never know unless you give it a try! It's not as difficult as you might think. In fact, one of my past ARRLWeb pieces was on that very subject--how to write an article.

4) Design a New QSL Card

Whether you consult with a QSL printer or have the facilities to design and print your own, now would be a great time to create a card that will knock everybody's socks off! I recently designed my first "photo" QSL card, with a picture I took myself at a Minnesota nature park, and had it printed by professionals. I also had a lot of input into the design of the back of the card. Whatever style you choose, creating a QSL "mostly from scratch" was a fun experience for me. The Basics of a QSL Card is another past article of mine that you can refer to.

5) Meet Some New Hams; Form a Club

It's a lot more fun to complain about poor band conditions in a group than all by yourself! Check into a local club or if there is none, consider starting one of your own. This can be anything from having a pizza together once a month to having a full-blown club station. Check with ARRL for any affiliated clubs in your area. I have also had a lot of fun discussing DX and "other stuff" with e-mail buddies, most of whom I have never met personally!

6) Try a New Mode or Activity

Compared to the mid 1960s when I got my first amateur license, there is a plethora of modes and activities to choose from today. Some may be cost/location prohibitive for many of us (such as an EME, or "moonbounce" station) but in addition to the old standbys of phone and CW, there is PSK 31, radioteletype, amateur television, satellite, FM and others. And, although it is not a "mode," don't forget QRP (low power). Modern rigs will allow the output power to be lowered to 5 watts or less, enabling the operator to go QRP whenever the urge strikes! Lots of QRP info is available from Anthony Luscre's series of Web articles. One good one is called Shopping for QRP items and Supplies. You can find others by searching for Luscre at the ARRLWeb home page.

7) Collect More QSL Cards

My ongoing project is attempting to get a photo QSL from all the DXCC entities I have worked, for my QSL album. I am active in the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, and my feature on using it can be found on the ARRLWeb site. Now that DX contacts are less frequent, I am QSLing more to entities I already have confirmed, because incoming cards are always fun to re-

ceive, and each one is unique. It helps "fill the gap" between on-air dx-qso's

8) Experiment with a Different Antenna

I stay with a vertical antenna mainly for its small footprint and ease of operation, but if you have the time, finances and space, trying out a different antenna design could prove beneficial. You could even design one of your own and test it out! Do you have a situation that is keeping you from "getting out" as well as you would like? See if you can improve it! Need some help? The ARRL has many antenna books; check out the online store.

9) Upgrade your License; Go Vanity (if you wish...)

Some may say that upgrading your ham license has never been easier; to some extent, this is true. Exams are overseen by volunteers, in many convenient locations (with a more cordial atmosphere than many of us old-timers remember who have taken exams at an FCC field office). Morse code requirements have been lessened considerably (or eliminated entirely, depending on the license grade). In the old days, hams taking an exam for the first time had no idea what the actual exam questions would be, as compared to today's "question pool" examples. Although seeing the questions beforehand provides an advantage, the question pool is so large that hams still have to accumulate a considerable amount of information to pass an exam. What better time to prepare to get more operating privileges, and be ready to go when the better propagation returns! ARRL study guides for all the current license grades are available.

If "going vanity" (applying for a specific call sign) has been in the back of your mind for a long time, at least investigate the possibilities. Information on how to get started is readily available. If you have a problem with "giving up" your old call sign of many years, my past feature on the "psychology" of applying for a vanity call sign may help.

10) Brush-Up On CW

Anyone who thinks Morse code is an outdated mode hasn't heard a CW DX pileup lately. Many hams operate CW worldwide, and it is still one of the best ways to "work the world" with low power. With the declining propagation, you may find CW will get through where some other modes won't. ARRL headquarters station W1AW faithfully broadcasts Morse practice sessions and Code Proficiency qualifying runs. It takes one minute of solid copy to get a nice certificate at various speeds. You don't even need to be a licensed ham to apply for the CP wallpaper! Code practice is available on the Web, too!

We hams may not be spending as much time sitting in front of the radio as we did during the last solar peak, but that doesn't mean there isn't ham-related activity off the air as well. These items are just a few of the things we can do until those peak conditions roll around again. Keep having fun!

ARRL member Rod Vlach, NN0TT, and his wife Diane hail from Willmar, Minnesota. Rod enjoys DXing, ragchewing and writing articles about ham radio. He and his wife are property managers. He can be contacted at nn0tt@arrl.net. From ARRL Web Site

ARRL VEC Test Fee 2005 \$14.00

This fee is charged once, no matter whether taking any one, two, three or all four test elements, one time. Retests of an element failed at the same test session will require payment of an additional test fee.

February 13, 2005 - March 26, 2005

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club, LTD

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Feb 13 WARECS 8:45 pm	Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Feb 15	Feb 16 DARC Meeting 7:30 pm	Feb 17	Feb 18 N2KQH B'Day	Feb 19
Feb 20 WARECS 8:45 pm	Feb 21 President's Day N2WZX B'Day KB2GZN B'Day	Feb 22 Washington's Birthday	Feb 23	Feb 24 N2RUS B'Day	Feb 25 N2PMI B'day K2MDN B'Day	Feb 26 Horsehds Hamfest
Feb 27 WARECS 8:45 pm	Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2 KB2KM B'day	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5
Mar 6 WARECS 8:45 pm Hamfest @ Williamson, NY WB2MBO B'Day WB2JOF B'Day	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10 N2MMB B'DAY	Mar 11	Mar 12 KE4WHJ B'DAY
Mar 13 WARECS 8:45 pm	Mar 14 K2MPE B'DAY	Mar 15	Mar 16 DARC Meeting 7:30 pm WT2P B'DAY	Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day	Mar 18	Mar 19
Mar 20 WARECS 8:45 pm	Mar 21 KG2BF B'day	Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24 N2OLJ B'DAY N2CMA B'Day	Mar 25 N2VWT B'Day	Mar 26

RDXA Program Announcement -- March 15, 2005

Speaker: Rus Healy K2UA

Program: Current Events in the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee

Date & Time: March 15, 2005 - 7:00pm

Location: Gander Mountain, 300 Jay Scutti Road. Henrietta

www.RDXA.com - RDXA @ Rochester.rr.com

Meeting open to all Radio Amateurs

Breakfast at Alton Coffe Shop, Rte.14

Saturday Mornings 6:30 am.

Check in on 146.685

Lunch at Tom Wahl's

Rte. 31 Newark

Friday Noon