

The Hobnob

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APRIL 2021

ISSUE 4

From the President

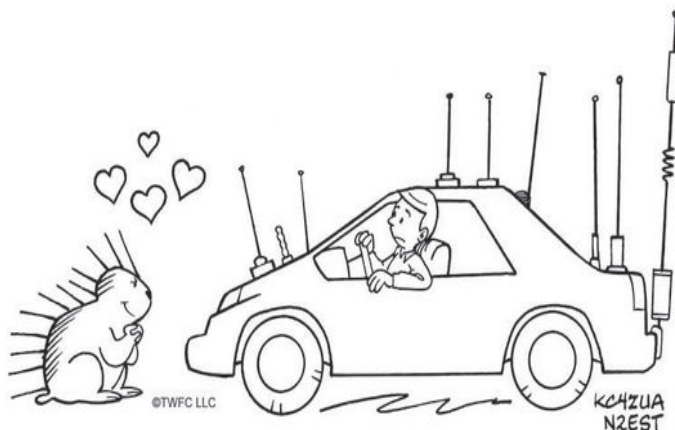
Greetings, In doing some quick research I found two local upcoming Hamfests –

June 12, 2021 – Cortland Hamfest and Technology Fair, Skyline Amateur Radio Club, Cortland County Fair Grounds, 4301 Fairgrounds Dr. Cortland, NY

July 16, 2021 – RAGS Hamfest, Camilus Elks Club, 6117 Newport Rd, Camillus, NY 13031. The hours were not in the information of the RAGS website.

I have not found any information on the Elmira Hamfest.

73 Carol Mayers – KB2RMZ
President of MOARC



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Join us on ZOOM for a virtual meeting Wed., Apr. 28 @ 7pm

Public Service Opportunities 2021



PIRATE UNKNOWN
Sun., July 18
@ 8am



Sitri's STAIRCASE RUN/WALK UNKNOWN
Sat., October 2
@ 6:30am



PUMPKIN PATROL
Pumpkin Patrol 2021
Sun., October 31
@ 6:30pm

Secretary's Corner



Another month has come and gone - wow! This month has been a flurry of doctor's appointments and work picking up a little at the print shop. My birthday was last week and each year I delight in all of the free offers I receive from the restaurants I enjoy. Since the pandemic, those

offers haven't been quite as generous. Still, I'll make use of as many as I can.

Sadly, the Mercedes has had its time with me and soon it'll be someone else's project. Two weeks ago I hit a deer with it and that was the final straw. The head gasket and water pump needed to be replaced and that could open the door to other repairs. I could have put the money in the car and it would have lasted me another 100,000 miles (or more), but if I'm going to invest in an older Mercedes I'd like it to be a larger model that's easier for me to get in and out of and has

more space. On our way to Syracuse last Thursday the oil pressure had dropped and I'm told that means the engine is failing. We already had a van purchase in the works and managed to get it on the road and in the yard by that evening. So now I'm driving a 2008 Chrysler Town & Country. The good news is that it has a lot of real estate on the roof for antennas and plenty of space inside for radios.

I'd also like to share that I start a new job working as a customer care advocate for Excellus BCBS this July. I'll have training from July 12 until late November or early December. I'm still going to run the print shop part time, but we'll be moving it to our house in Hamilton. For the time being, the position with Excellus is work-from-home and I'm hoping it will stay that way so I can just stay around the house and avoid the commute in the winter months.

We've talked about Skywarn recently and Carol found the most recent version of the activation script and instructions for running the net. Before this is posted online it seemed like we should review it for accuracy. There are frequencies and contact hams listed in the document which may not be current these days. If you're aware of any changes or current information then please let us know.

I heard a statistic this morning that 45% of the population of New York State have received at least their first vaccine shot. I can only hope that as more people get vaccinated and the infection numbers drop, hopefully more of our in-person events will be taking place. The news that the State Fair can take place is a big step in the right direction. I haven't heard anything about either of our run/walks. Sitrin doesn't seem to be doing a virtual event this year and the Sylvan Beach Pirate's Rum Runner seems to have gone by the wayside as well. At least we still have Pumpkin Patrol!

I guess that's my news for the month. It's been busy, but at least that makes the time go by faster. I'm okay with the winter months going quickly as long as I get some time to enjoy the nicer weather. I hope you've all had a great April and I look forward to seeing your happy, smiling faces Wednesday night!

~Rick Rogers KC2ABQ, MOARC Secretary

zoom

Rick Rogers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MOARC April 2021 Meeting
Time: April 28, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77465728780?pwd=TDIxN2dVZTZMZWZCtkWnc1R3pENDR0QT09>

Meeting ID: 774 6572 8780
Passcode: g41a0e

R G O O D F R I D A Y F W K Z
 F T W N V Z C B R G A M T J A
 R E R T S H O W E R S D V S I
 E K C A A H K W O L C Y V P B
 Q U E C N F A U H F A B H E H
 U K M A C S L N S G N U F C C
 E P M B R P C O D S D N W T F
 N N E M R T J I W H Y N V R O
 C D A A D E H U E E E Y Z U O
 Y U P V S E L D E V R L B M L
 W C R Z T T Q L A G E S D U S
 G K I Y Q V E W A Y Z R W N W
 S T L I N T E R F E R E N C E
 O H A M F E S T U Y V C G A P
 C R X P L A N T I N G E K G Z

April Word Find

APRIL
 BUNNY
 CANDY
 DUCK
 EARTH DAY
 EASTER
 FLOWERS
 FOOLS
 FREQUENCY
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HAMFEST
 HANDHELD
 INTERFERENCE
 PLANTING
 SHOWERS
 SPECTRUM
 TRANSCIEVER
 UHF
 UMBRELLA
 VHF

March 31, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The virtual meeting was opened by MOARC President Carol Mayers (KB2RMZ) at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business:

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report from our February 2021 virtual meeting was distributed to the membership in the March 2021 issue of The Hobnob.

New Business:

OCTEN is moving it's nightly net to 8:00pm.

The Skywarn Activation instructions should probably be reviewed before posting online. The people and repeaters listed in the document should be assessed for accuracy. The document has been included at the end of the Hobnob for club members to review.

At 7:40 p.m. the meeting was ended.

Respectfully submitted – Rick Rogers KC2ABQ,
MOARC Secretary

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays:

5/31 Carol Mayers KB2RMZ

5/31 John Payne KC2AOA

May Anniversaries:

5/19 Dave Roy N2SMJ

Contact Rick Rogers to be included in this list (Rick@DandOprint.com).



MOARC
 c/o D&O Print Solutions
 1125 Stark St.
 Utica, NY 13502

PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE



Membership Application

Primary Member

Name: _____
 Call: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____
 Telephone _____

Optional

Birthday: _____
 Anniversary: _____
 ARRL Member? Yes No
 License Class: _____

Additional Family Members

Name: _____
 Call: _____
 Birthday: _____
 Name: _____
 Call: _____
 Birthday: _____
 Name: _____
 Call: _____
 Birthday: _____

Membership Options: \$15.00/Year Full Membership
 \$8.00/Year Additional Family Member / Senior Citizen / Student

Mail completed application and dues to: John Payne, 5862 Reservoir Rd., Earlville, NY 13332

MOARC SKYWARN Activation

Any time there is a Severe Storm WARNING for Oneida or Madison Counties, any station may activate the SKYWARN Net.

When calling the Net, use the County activated followed by SKYWARN (example: Madison County SKYWARN or Oneida-Madison SKYWARN if both Counties are affected.)

Open the Net by identifying yourself and what the net is, state, ***“This is (your call sign) activating SKYWARN.”***

Then, state why SKYWARN has been activated. If you have a copy of the alert, read the alert. If all you know is that there is a severe thunderstorm warning for the area, state ***“The National Weather Service in Binghamton has issued a severe thunderstorm warning for _____ . Stations with information on this storm, or stations for the Net, please call.”*** If it is a Tornado Warning, replace Severe Thunderstorm with Tornado.

If you want to appoint an alternate Net Control, feel free. This could become important if your power goes out or if you might have the storm go right over your location and you have to secure for part of the net.

IMPORTANT – Find and appoint a liaison that can hit the 145.33 or the 147.00 (PL71.9) to contact the NWS Net Control Station on that repeater link system. If the NWS Net Control Station is not on the air, the liaison station can use the 800 number to file the report. The 800 number we use **is not** to be given over the air.

Make your calls clear, and quick.... ***“ _____ County SKYWARN, looking for stations with info on this storm, and stations for the Net”.***

Net discipline is especially important during a SKYWARN Event. Keep these operating tips in mind while you conduct the net.

1. The purpose of the net is to receive observations of the calling Amateurs. Scanner reports, TV reports etc. are not firsthand observations. IF an operator reports that they were on the phone with someone trusted and that friend saw something in the area, you can report that. Scanner reports are also reported to NWS by the dispatch center.... Not us.
2. Chatting needs to be kept to a minimum, once again, we need reportable information to relay to NWS. While one person is shooting the breeze, a second station may have an “immediate report event to relay, (i.e. Golf Ball size hail, a wall cloud, or a tornado, etc.)” This is a **very Formal and Directed Net** – not a friendly traffic net, or rag-chew net.
3. The Net Control Station, at its discretion, can let two other stations have brief words, but this should be kept to a minimum and should be related to SKYWARN business only. If the words are not related to SKYWARN, then the words should be taken off frequency. An example of SKYWARN business could include comparing observations of a cloud formation to determine if such a formation is reportable (i.e. wall cloud, funnel cloud, tornado, etc.).
4. If you as Net Control need to think a moment about what to do next, un-key the mike. Doing so, may give another station time to break-in and give a timely report.
5. Although trivial reports, such as “I see a Dark Cloud” or “it’s just starting to rain here” give the net a feel as to where the storm or storms are located, they should be held to a minimum and not be encouraged. Just thank the station for checking in and for this report and ask them to

MOARC SKYWARN Activation

break back into the net with further info if they experience any Hail, Strong Winds, Down Trees, significant flooding, etc.

6. Leave lots of time between calls and between a check-in and your acknowledgement. Such gaps are needed to allow stations with "PRIORITY" information to break in.
7. Be patient with weak signals and stations breaking up. The reason for their poor signal may just be because of the weather they are trying to report on. Ask for a relay or if other stations can listen to the input frequency. If this doesn't work, suggest the calling station go to another repeater or frequency and send someone to that frequency to get the report for relay.
8. It's OK to politely ask a station to "Standby" while you confer with another station that you think might have important info relating to the storm(s).
9. Always be courteous. Getting stations mad at you will not help and will result in SKYWARN reports not getting through – either because everybody has left the frequency or because all that is being said is relating to the hurt feelings.

NOTE – Net is held on the 145.17 frequency with call-ups on 146.76, and possible 146.88 depending on the location off the storm or storms. If we lose the 17 go to the 76 and ask for permission to use the repeater for SKYWARN. Remember proper radio etiquette. The .888 can be used if the .76 and the .17 are not available. If the storm is projected to go over the repeater site being used, or if the repeater signal getting hard to copy, remind stations checked in that ***"the net will move to the _____ repeater if this one goes off the air."*** If the repeater goes off the air, try to get a station to go simplex on the repeater's output frequency and announce where the net has moved to.

SKYWARN Nets are held for the duration of the NWS Warning Notices. Unless NWS relays a request for us to stay active, the Net secures at the expiration of the Alert.

Upon reaching the end of the Severe Storm Warning, transmit ***"This is (Your Call) with _____ County SKYWARN. The Severe Storm Warning for this area has expired. There have been no extensions. This Net is secured. Thank you for your observations, reports and participation. This Net is activated on the 145.17 W2MO repeater whenever the National Weather Service issue a Severe Storm Warning for this area. Your involvement is important to the NWS and is appreciated. OM SKYWARN thanks W2MO/J2IQ/W2OFO for the use of their repeaters. This is (Your Call) signing the Net clear and returning the repeater to other Amateur uses. (Your Call) out."***

Please submit either a check-in count or full net to AK2Z and/or KB2CCS. NWS may ask for a station participation count. Those numbers can be given to the liaison to NWS.

BASIC SPOTTERS' FIELD GUIDE - [Booklet 2/10b \(weather.gov\)](#)

Advanced spotters' Field Guide - [spotter guide advanced noaa.pdf \(fiu.edu\)](#)

800 number for reporting -800-759-2992 Do not give number over the air.

NWS Binghamton Office – <http://www.weather.gov/bgm>
stormreport@noaa.gov, WX2BGM – NWS Binghamton