

Winter 2008

# S.A.R.A. SEZ

Issue 3 Vol. 2008

*Editor Lori Deem  
Co-Editor -Amy McClintock  
Photographer- Rhanay Konas*

## Newsletter

Sara would like to express our deepest sympathy to the families of Stephen J. Repinec "W3YCM" and David Evans "K3NB".

Stephen passed away Aug 27, 2008, He was from Tamaqua and David Evans passed away Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 and he was from Frackville.

There was a correction from the August newsletter; David "Chip" Christ was omitted from our list of members. We apologize and we corrected the membership list to include Chip as a member of SARA.

Anyone wishing to write an article or would like to see anything new in the newsletter please email them to [lorideem@ptd.net](mailto:lorideem@ptd.net) or [kb3phi@yahoo.com](mailto:kb3phi@yahoo.com)

From the staff at SARA SEZ we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Board Members 2008

President - Todd Deem kb3ikx  
Vice-President - Joe Konas kb3nxt  
Secretary - Jim Munley kb3fet  
Treasure – Dale DeWald kb3gav  
Public Information Officer –  
Jason Milyo kb3icc  
Trustee – Carl Zimmerman w3eek

## 2009 Membership Dues

2009 is approaching and the annual membership dues are due. For and single member it would be \$15.00 and for a family membership it would be \$25.00. All dues must be paid by April 15<sup>th</sup> 2009.

If you know anyone wanting to join S.A.R.A. please download a membership application at our website

<http://www.qsl.net/w3sc>

You may pay your dues at the monthly meeting or via the mail

S.A.R.A  
P.O. Box 901  
Pottsville PA 17901

## Nominations

At the October meeting, SARA opened the nominations for the 2009 Officers. As of the November meeting we have the following nominations:

President - Todd Deem KB3IKX  
Vice-President - Joe Konas KB3NXT  
Secretary - Jim Munley KB3FET  
Treasurer - Gary Fleischut KA3FUL  
Public Relations - Jason Milyo KB3ICC

With all offices being unopposed there was a motion for the secretary to cast a ballot of acclimation for all offices. So the officers for 2009 will be as listed above.

Lets all look forward to another great year promoting amateur radio.

## 31st Annual Halloween Grave Dig

The 31st annual Halloween Grave Dig was held on Saturday October 18th and once again, the members of Sara and their guests were called upon to assist with the "Hunt for the Count".

For those of you who may be wondering what the "Dig" is, here is some of the history behind it.

In 1977, a group of about 10 friends decided that they wanted to have a scavenger hunt around Schuylkill County, just in time for Halloween. This hunt was led by Dottie Demmer, a gym teacher in the Mahanoy Area School District.

Throughout the years, the Dig became larger, with many more folks wanting to participate. The event covered a larger area to accommodate the growing number of participants with the addition of winning a prize for the team who successfully collected all the clues and made it to the "Dig Site". The Dig Site is a place at the end of the hunt which is chosen by The Dig Committee and a small coffin containing "The Count" is buried there. The Dig can start anywhere in the state of Pennsylvania and also end anywhere within the Commonwealth.

At this year's Dig, the members and guests of our organization met at Southern Columbia High School around Noon for a short briefing and then sent out to our respective checkpoints (or clue locations) to assist with communications for any of the teams who needed help. Todd, KB3IKX, was riding with Dottie (dig coordinator) and did a fine job as the net control for the event

This year's dig was a bit hectic due to a stepped-up police presence in Catawissa, Columbia County. Since the dig's clues are classified (and kept secret better than the FBI), even the police officers were not notified until the last moment, and had stopped vehicles who were participating with the event.

The dig site was located right outside of Ringtown, Schuylkill County.

After "The count was found, the members who assisted with communications throughout were invited to attend the Post Dig Party at the Lakeside Ballroom in Barnesville. At the party, we were treated to a buffet-style meal and entertainment by the band "Nemesis". It was a great ending to an awesome day. Special thanks to all who assisted with the emergency communications!!!

73 to all and hope to see you at next year's event!  
Amy, KB3PHI

### Email

Again we are asking anyone that would be able to receive the newsletter by email in order to keep expenses down, please sent an email to [lorideem@ptd.net](mailto:lorideem@ptd.net). Your email address will not be distributed to anyone without your permission.

## 2008 PA QSO PARTY

October 11 & 12 was another fun weekend at the clubs tower site in Delano. The weather was beautiful and the food was great as usual. After a lot of hard work trimming trees, finishing the QRM shack (outhouse), dragging brush, stringing antennas, setting up the radios & computers we all had a fun time playing radio. We had over 300 contacts equaling over 30000 points on phone only. As advertised the PA QSO party is truly the friendliest contest around, a lot of fun making qso's with a little rag chewing mixed in.

## 2008 FIELD DAY UPDATE

The field day results are out! Thanks to everyone's hard work we scored 3<sup>rd</sup> in the EPA section class 2A. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

### **10 10 SPRINT**

KB3NXT participated in the 10 meter sprint contest from Delano October 10 & 11 and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 3<sup>rd</sup> call area and 6<sup>th</sup> place in the world. Keep on hamming Joe.

### **January VHF Contest**

The January VHF contest is just around the corner, there has been some talk of the club operating this contest from the tower site, if Mother Nature doesn't keep us out. If any one is interested in operating this contest leave me know so we can coordinate it. We have antennas for 10, 6, & 2 meters and 70 cm already on the tower.

### **HAPPY CONTENTESTING**

73 - Todd, KB3IKX

## 2008 Christmas Party

The annual SARA Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 6th, at 6pm at the Roma Pizzeria in downtown Pottsville.

The party will be held in the newly renovated second floor meeting/conference room.

We will be given a variety of Entree's to choose from and more info about them will be announced on the Schuylkill County Emergency Service Net (held at 8:00pm every Tuesday night on the frequency of 145.37mhz) until December 2nd, which is when I will need to know how many will be in your party and if you may want a specialty item such as lobster, filet minion, or other similar items. Unfortunately, Roma does not accept Debit or Credit cards. It is a cash only venue.

We are hoping to have a great turnout this year for our Christmas party. Each and every member of Sara and their family is invited to attend. As always, there will be a random drawing for a brand new HT, a full year of membership in SARA, a \$50 gift certificate, and a subscription to QST Magazine, respectively.

If you can let me know how many will be attending in your party by November 30th, it will be greatly appreciated.

You can either call me, (570)573-8678, or e-mail me, kb3phi@yahoo.com.

Have a Safe and Blessed Season...  
Amy, KB3PHI



### 2008 Valley Forge Moonshine Endoro

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the Endoro this year. There were enough operators this year to cover all the checkpoints. Every year they ask us to help with communications. It was a beautiful day for the Endoro. There was only one minor injury to an ankle and a few brake downs. The club received a \$200.00 donation for assisting with the event.



SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ARES / RACES  
Schuylkill County ARES member,

A web site was created to allow our emergency communicators an easy online source of reference materials.

This site was created under yahoo groups, a free web host. Due to the nature of some of the reference

materials, it was felt better that the access be limited to just those who need it.

The web address for the site is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schuylkillcountyares>

In order to begin accessing the site, the user must register. After access is granted, access is as simple as

entering a user name and password (similar to checking your e-mail)

Steps:

1. Visit the group site ( [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ schuylkillcountyares](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schuylkillcountyares) )

2. On the upper right- hand side of the page is a button labled “join this group”...click on this.

3. You will be directed to sign in. If you do not have a yahoo account, on the bottom of the column is a link called “ Sign UP”

4. You will come to a registration screen. You will be asked basic questions (Name, birth date, and zip code) At this time, you can choose your user name. Most amateurs use their call sign.

Afterwards you pick a password and confirm it...you're done!

(you will receive a yahoo e-mail account with this registration. You do not have to use it if you do not

wish to. You do not have to give up your current e-mail to use yahoo mail and yahoo can be accessed

by any computer connected to the internet worldwide.)

5. You will get a confirmation screen with a link on the right hand side “ Go to Groups” Click on it.

6. You will enter the Schuylkill County ARES screening page. At this time you will go through the steps of gaining access to the site. At this time, you may want to add that page to your favorites, so you can quickly access the page in the future.

7. Under your e-mail address, you can change to settings to have any ARES bulletins sent to the e-mail account of your choice. We will not flood our members with e-mails unless it is deemed important, so be sure you list an e-mail account you check.
8. The next box is labeled "comment to owner", you can simply add you call sign.
9. Under **STEP 2: Message delivery** you choose how often you will get e-mails about the site. Select "Special Notices" All other choices will flood you with unnecessary e-mails or you will get none at all. Under **STEP 3: Message Preference** you can select "Traditional"
10. After you decode the scrambled letters and enter them into the box, (This is required by yahoo to prevent spammers from using software to generate automatic requests) Click on the **JOIN** button on the bottom of the screen.
11. You are finished registering! Within a day, one of the page moderators will see your registration and immediately approve it. You can begin taking advantage of the pages features now. To visit the page in the future, you just simply enter your yahoo user name and password.  
Contents of the page:

**-County, District and Section ARES plans.**

**-State RACES guide**

**-Maps (with more to be added in the future)**

**-Photos of local ARES activities**

**-More to follow... We hope you take advantage of the page, you can add as much or little as you wish!**

73, Bob N3RZI



