



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY R.A.C.E.S. ASSOCIATION, INC.

Presidents Column Fred—W2EMS

As your new president, I sit here pondering thoughts about where the club stands and where do we want to go. That's right WE, some of you may not be aware that this radio club is very much membership driven. Most recently there has been a lack of participation in overall club activities and I would like to find out why.

Each dues paying member is entitled to a copy of our current newsletter, about one hundred are sent out each month. There are also a handful of newsletters that get mailed to members that don't have email or choose not to provide us that information. Each member also gets to vote on topics that affect the club but you need to be at the monthly meeting to vote. Would changing the day of the week or the time of the meeting allow more members to attend?

Your Board of Directors is working hard to keep the business end of the club strong and respond to the needs of the members and the public but the Board can't do it alone.

Public service events are a big part of our club, helping serve agencies when they call is what we do best. There have been several events this year with even more scheduled in the upcoming months. Glenn, KA2DTH has accepted the role as our Public Service Events Coordinator and continues to post events as he receives them with details listed on the club's website.

This is just part of what we can do together; remember it all starts with the membership. I need to understand what direction you would like to see this club go. I need comments, suggestions, and ideas from each and every one of you so the Board and I can do some long-range planning as well as short-term preparation for the next year.

I can't make the club more attractive to you if I don't know what you like. Is old time radio your thing or does the newest Ham Radio technology interest you? What kind of training would you like to see? Tired of the same faces doing the training, want some new speakers to deliver a different perspective on a topic?

The time is here to make changes to the club, changes you want to see to promote Amateur Radio in and around Saratoga County.

Take that first step, email, US mail, on the air, or call me and the other Board members to let us know how we can improve YOUR radio club.

Board Minutes 17 July 2006

Meeting was called to order by president Fred W2EMS at 7:30PM. There was a quorum present. Board members present were: Darlene N2XQG, Peter W2BEW, Fred W2EMS, Mark KA2FBZ, Ed KC2MIN and Dave N2FEP, as well as guest and past president Jim, K2LM.

1. Discussion regarding presenting the club and its abilities to the public. It was suggested that a packet be created for distribution and that Al Would be asked to work on membership materials.
2. Fred suggested a matrix of PS events. Glenn KA2DTH will be asked to draft a job description for the position of Public Service Events Coordinator that he is currently filling.
3. Field Day report is ready to go to the ARRL with 560 phone and 26 CW QSO's.
4. Dave reported that the new '36 repeater antenna still awaits installation, pending the availability of a professional climber.
5. Darlene reports that hamfest preparations appear to be in order. She is still looking for a VEC for the license exams however. Darlene and Dave, NR2J will oversee the food, Mark will supervise the gate, Dave will run the fox hunt and Glenn, KA2DTH will oversee the APRS demonstration.
6. Dave briefly described the operation of ARES and RACES. ARES can be activated by ARRL or by Dave, as the Emergency Coordinator; RACES must be activated by local government. He also stressed the need for additional training in emergency communications for club members.
7. Dave announced plans for a Simulated Emergency

Test on October 1 at 1300 hours (*Ed: More details may be found in this newsletter*). He needs an updated list of operators, license class, equipment and contact information. Please forward your information to N2FEP (datwell@nycap.rr.com) before Sept. 25th.

8. Board members were asked to suggest topics for 7 future meeting programs; a schedule will be prepared at the August board meeting.
9. Board members were also asked to review the RACES club constitution and bylaws and be prepared to suggest any needed updates.
10. Next Board only meeting to be August 21 at 7:30PM.
11. MSC to adjourn at 8:45PM.

Public Service Glenn — KA2DTH

Please continue to visit the club website at www.wa2umx.net and watch the calendar. As our assistance is requested, dates and information will be posted there.

The **MS North Country Bike Tour** was held on July 8th & 9th.



We used APRS in many vehicles to provide status and tracking for this 2 day event. We also had a couple of hams on bicycles to provide communications for the section of the ride that was on the Lake George bike path (no vehicular traffic allowed).

Thanks to all the hams who volunteered for this event: Darlene-N2XQG, Jim-K2LM, Tim-N2MBX, Candace-KC2MRZ, Lee-WB2NSC, Rick-KB2LFZ, Byron-KC2KOH, Tom-N2SBC, Ed-KB2UKT, Bob-

KB2TBB, Al-KA1IEG, Steve-WA2TTP, Henry-KB2STR, Ernie-KB7BYD, Dave-KC2ODL, Kim-KF2LV, Jack-WA2YBM

Mohawk Towpath Duathlon—October 1.—Contact Fred, W2EMS to volunteer .

Field Day 2006 Glenn—KA2DTH



A great field day was held at the Wilton EMS building on June 24/25th.

A group of hams came together on Friday afternoon to begin setting up infrastructure such as tents and the computer logging network.

On Saturday the radios came out, antennas went up and we were ready to operate with time to spare! We operated through the night and made many contacts. Sunday morning brought a special treat as Keith N4ZQ/2 was in town and setup a satellite station! We

broke down all the equipment and tents just in time to miss the afternoon rainstorm.

When all was said & done, we had 526 phone and 26 CW QSO's in the logging program! Thanks to all who came out & participated.



Hamfest 2006 Darlene — N2XQG

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association, Inc. will be holding its 21st annual Hamfest on Saturday, September 9, 2006. The hamfest runs from 7 AM until 3 PM at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa. Admission is still \$5.00 which includes admission and entry into the drawings for all door prizes.

Directions: Interstate 87 to exit 12, west on Route 67 to Ballston Spa. Follow Orange and White hamfest signs. **Talk in** will be on the WA2UMX repeaters 146.40/147.00 and 147.84/147.24

Our hamfest is our only way of supplying the money needed to maintain our vast repeater system. With declining attendance at most hamfests, we are hoping we can again hold our own this year. **Volunteers** will be **needed** at the gate and the food booth. **VE test sessions** at the Solar building beginning at 9 am. We will also again be having our **fox hunt**.

As always, the **food booth** will be open all day serving breakfast (coffee, pastries, breakfast sandwiches) and lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage with peppers & onions) and more!!!

We will again be giving away an HF radio as our **grand prize** to be drawn at 2 PM (you need not be present for this prize only). Additional tickets for the radio will be available at the club booth for \$5.00.

If you are able to **volunteer** your time to work the hamfest, please email me at dar@saratogaspringsny.us) or give me a call.

Radio Officer Dave — N2FEP



Saratoga County A.R.E.S. / R.A.C.E.S. S.E.T October 1st 2006

Simulated emergency test for Saratoga County.

This will test the readiness of all radio amateurs who participate in this exercise. You should read up on and familiarize yourself with emergency radio procedures, ensure your equipment will be ready to perform reliably, and that you are prepared.

The test will start with a call up of members on the 147.00 and 147.24 repeater system (linked) just as the Sunday evening net is run.

You must check in to be utilized. You should be ready for an assignment. There will be participation other than talking on the repeater system.

This will start on Sunday October 1st at or about 13:00 local time. All information will be provided on the air by the net control station after check in has occurred.

Please participate in this test. If you cannot you will need to advise the emergency coordinator before September 25, 2006.

Members who do not participate without notification will be dropped from the active roll of A.R.E.S. and the county R.A.C.E.S. Not the club.

(Ed Note: It is important to again note the separation between the Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association, Inc. which is our ham club, and the ARES and RACES organizations which are completely independent, emergency response groups that are under the direction of the county Emergency Coordinator, N2FEP, the ARRL or the local government. For more details, please refer to the ARRL website.)

Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 8PM for our weekly net. With this frequently held event we hope to be able to provide timely information to area amateurs as well as provide a forum for selling/ swapping gear and discussing topics in a formally directed net environment.

The 147.00 and 147.24 repeaters are linked by the 448.225 machine during this net, so feel free to check in on any of the repeaters.

Calling all photographers...

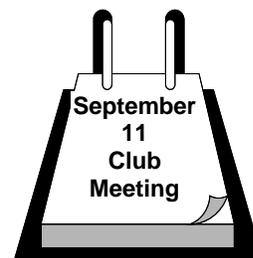
We are looking for as many pictures of our ham radio activities as we can find. Please contact Glenn as ka2dth@arrl.net if you have any electronic photos of hams working public service events, hamfest or field days.

FOR SALE:

Items from the estate of Dick Jenkins, W2GWY, are listed on the club website. Please look on the 'Ham Ads' page, and contact Jim, K2LM for further details. If you have any items to list, please contact the editor of this newsletter.

Meetings

Regular monthly membership meetings of the Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association, Inc. amateur radio club will startup again on September 11th at 7:30PM.

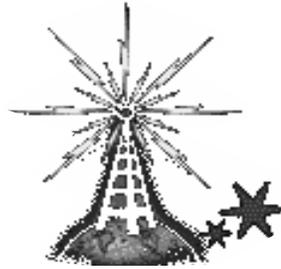




WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:
<http://www.wa2umx.net>.

Here you will find the latest club news and events.



The club operates two 2-meter repeaters. The 147.24 repeater is located 15 miles West of Saratoga Springs at Lake Nancy, in Barkersville. This repeater has a phone patch, which is restricted to members only. The 147.00 repeater is located 10 miles North of Saratoga Springs on Spruce Mountain, near Corinth, NY. This repeater offers an "emergency" phone patch. These two machines, in combination, offer excellent North to South and East to West communications far beyond Saratoga County. These repeaters are linked together at various times by the club's third repeater on 448.225 MHz.

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