

Sparks from the Spa



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

Presidents Column Fred — W2EMS

I attended my first ever ARRL Hudson Cabinet and Club Presidents meeting on Saturday, January 13th. I couldn't believe the turnout, I counted 50 people and a few more arrived during the meeting. We started promptly at 0930 hours with Director, Frank Fallon (N2FF) calling the meeting to order and reviewing the agenda for the day. Vice Director Joyce Birmingham (KA2ANF) followed up with a welcome to everyone and commented briefly on the success of the 2006 Hudson Division awards dinner that took place in November.

As the meeting progressed the next order of business was the introduction of each representative to include a brief narrative of their club and/or activities they were involved with. This process seemed to take a long time with some attendees announcing their name, title, club affiliation, and a couple of sentences about their club. Others seemed to go on and on taking the opportunity to stand on their soap box and discuss each and every trouble they, and their club, had with the ARRL, the FCC, and others. This process took a long time to complete but Frank paused the introductions from time to time to discuss an associated item from the printed agenda.

A few of the HOT topics were:

BPL – Your help is still needed and the problem has not gone away. ARRL members' donations are vital to the success of BPL court appeal. In a December 7th press release from the ARRL they urge donations to the *ARRL Spectrum Defense Campaign* to keep the fight alive. (Reprints of this article will be available at the next club meeting)

ARRL Hudson Division web site – Check it out at: <http://www.hudson.arrl.org>

FCC suspends the vanity call sign program - Vanity Call Sign Applications Currently Are Not Being Processed. The Commission continues to accept vanity call sign applications. However, these applications will not be processed until software changes in accordance with the recent rulemaking have been fully implemented. When processing is resumed, all pending vanity call sign applications will be processed consistent with the date order in which they were received.

Please Note:

Darlene N2XQG, is compiling a list of club VEs. If you are a Volunteer Examiner, please let her know (dar@saratogaspringsny.us), particularly if you are willing to serve as VE Coordinator for these events.

PIO – The Public information Officer continues to be a necessary and important position in many clubs. There is a growing need for information and when not provided by the club may end up being created by the press. Check out the PIO section at ARRL at: <http://www.arrl.org/pio>

NIMS Training – NIMS training for all radio operators is being highly encouraged. NIMS level 100, 200, 700, and 800 should be the goal of all operators involved in ECOMM operations. Check out the FEMA training site at: <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/Is/crslst.asp>

RED CROSS – The Red Cross is currently requesting detailed information to include social security number, credit history, and other personal information as part of their credentialing process. There are mixed feeling about these requests but Frank Fallon has recommended that we (Amateur Radio Operators) take a wait and see approach in hopes that this requirement will be changed to meet the needs of the Red Cross while maintaining our personal information.

Well, that's it for this month,

73,
Fred Halley Jr., W2EMS

**Ham Radio is a CONTACT sport—
Get on the air & make a CONTACT!**

Board Minutes 8 January 2007

Meeting was called to order by president Fred W2EMS at 6:30PM. A quorum was present with Fred-W2EMS, Darlene-N2XQG, Peter-W2BEW, Mark-KA2FBZ, Glenn-KA2DTH in attendance. Also visitors: Francis-W1LJF

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The President's Report:

- Constitution & Bylaws revisions complete, copies available from W2EMS
- Radio room at Wilton EMS building has been readied for operation: antenna & rotator cables identified and labeled, equipment will be set in place, but not connected
- Club has received NYS approval for assumed name: "Saratoga Amateur Radio Association" for signs, badges, etc. Legal name is unchanged
- Plans to attend ARRL Hudson Division meeting in NJ on 1/30/07

Vice President's Report

- Hamfest 2007 date is now firm: Saturday September 8 at County Fairgrounds
 - Board authorized \$375 for fairgrounds rental
- Swapfest date set for Saturday March 10 at Coop Extension (Solar) Building.
 - Board approved purchase of H/T for door prize
- Volunteer Examiners needed for both swapfest & hamfest. We also need a VE Coordinator to arrange for testing materials & scoring.
 - Darlene N2XQG, is compiling a list of club VEs. If you are a Volunteer Examiner, please let her know (dar@saratogaspringsny.us), particularly if you are willing to serve as VE Coordinator for these events.

Secretary's Report:

- A number of members have not yet renewed their memberships. If your dues are due, you will be notified once more. Send 2007 dues to Al Margadonna, KA1IEG (see officers list on last page).

NOTICE:

We are looking for someone to be the Meeting Events Coordinator for this year. It is an easy task, create a slate of programs of general radio interest, line up presenters and schedule the presentations. We have many event ideas to aid in this process! If you could help, please contact Fred, W2EMS.

Treasurer's Report:

- Al was not present.

Radio Officer's Report

- Dave was not present

Additional Business

- PL tone has been changed on the club repeaters: now is 91.5Hz on the 147.000, 147.240 and 448.225MHz machines to reduce interference from other repeaters.
- Voted to authorize to swap club's 147.00 repeater antenna, if needed, for defective County EMS antenna. Jim, K2LM, will negotiate.
- MSC to adjourn at 7:30PM

Public Service



Glenn — KA2DTH

Another PSE has been scheduled—the AIM Services Dog Walk. We helped them out last year with their first running of this event, and they are excited to have our help again this year. This event will be on April 22nd at the Saratoga State Park.

On May 6th, we have been asked to help with the MS Walkathon at the track in Saratoga. On July 14th we are

scheduled to help with the MS Bike Tour out of Moreau State Park.

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.



Radio Officer Dave — N2FEP

As we all may know the county is moving forward on their radio system project. I am in hopes that amateur radio can play a role in the county. I will continue to strive to make that happen for us.

I am in the planning stages of training. I very much would like to

provide some in February. I need input from the members as to what type of training that you want and what day would be good for that. I can provide Saturday afternoon or on a Sunday for that. We can do it at the Wilton EMS or at the County Training Center. Please let me know what you prefer so we can set this up to get the info out to everyone. I will list it on the club webpage as soon as I get input from everyone. Please email me at datwell@nycap.rr.com.

Please check your go kits and equipment and be ready to assist. We just went thru a real ice storm and we can only imagine what may be in store down the line.

147.360 is up and running better than it has in years thanks to the dedication of the club and the members that helped with the installation of the antenna and replacement hardline. I want to thank Jim K2LM and Frank KA2QYE, for the assistance in getting the equipment and to Rusty KE2PW who did the climbing to put up the antenna and line. Also to N2QFT and her OM for allowing 36 to be on there property and for paying the power bill to keep it on the air.

73s

Dave N2FEP



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.

Meetings

The next meeting of the club will be on February 12th at 7:30 PM.

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.

Club Calendar:

February 12th, 7:30PM—Saratoga Amateur Radio Assn. meeting, Wilton EMS Building

March 10th—Club Swapfest—Cooperative Extension (Solar) Building, Ballston Spa

April 22nd—PSE—AIM Services DogWalk

May 6th—PSE—MS Walkathon

June 22-24—Field Day

July 14th—PSE—MS bike Tour

May 12th—East Greenbush Hamfest, Phillips Rd.

Firehouse. VE session, indoor / outdoor tables.

General Admission—\$5.00, tailgating—FREE. Talk In 147.270 (+) PL 94.8 Hz

September 8th—Saratoga Hamfest—County Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa



NOTICE:

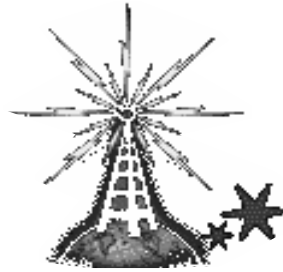
We are looking for volunteers to run the net—it is a simple job, the text is on the club website and all you need to do is record the calls/names & forward them to Fred, W2EMS. I'm sure he would appreciate the break!



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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