

# Sparks from the Spa



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

## Presidents Column Fred — W2EMS

*Is it time to re-join the ARRL?*

At the last club meeting there was a discussion regarding our status with the ARRL. The Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association had been a long time member of the ARRL but with fewer club members renewing their ARRL membership the club was forced to drop our affiliation with the ARRL.

Now that our membership has stabilized at just over 100 and with 56% of club members being current ARRL members this may be an opportune time to re-establish our affiliation with them.

Being an affiliated member of the ARRL gives us several benefits to include:

- ARRL Insurance
- Referrals of Prospective Radio Amateurs
- ARRL Club Stationery
- ARRL Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program
- Mailing Lists
- Clip Art
- Club Gavel Competition
- Library Sets of ARRL Publications
- 50% Discount on Club Ads in QST
- Planning an ARRL Hamfest or Convention?
- Special Service Clubs

Visit the following link to view all of the benefits and additional links with additional information:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/benefits.html>

Although there is no Club meeting in March I will be sure to have this topic on the agenda for the April meeting.

73,  
Fred Halley Jr., W2EMS

## Board Minutes 12 February 2007

Meeting was called to order by president Fred W2EMS at 6:35PM. A quorum was present with Darlene N2XQG, Al KA1IEG, Peter W2BEW, Ed KC2MIH, Dennis WA2JWO and Dave N2FEP in attendance. Also visitors: Francis-W1LJF, Joana N2QFT, Byron KC2KOH.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### *The President's Report:*

- No-Code licensing goes into effect on February 23. Testing after that date will not include any Morse code component
  - Attended ARRL Hudson Division Mtg in NJ, on 1/13/07
    - Much emphasis on Public Information Officer position in clubs
    - Much informational support material available on the ARRL website
  - Club to pursue formal affiliation with ARRL
    - Permits referral of prospective local hams from ARRL website
    - Requires that 51% of members are ARRL members (SCARA = 56%)
  - Twelve check-ins from on previous Sunday night net including WY2T and N2RPW via Echolink from Florida
  - Still need a coordinator for Field Day operation in June. You do not have to do it all—just oversee operations and make sure everything gets done. If no volunteer for coordinator is identified by the April meeting the club may elect to skip Field Day 2007 per motion by Darlene N2XQG (tabled).
- ### **Any Volunteers?**
- Also we will need setup/teardown assistance for Field Day and operators (June 22-24)

### *Vice President's Report*

- Club's Swapfest will be held Saturday March 10 at the Solar Building, 50 West High Street (Rt 67 West) in Ballston Spa. Doors open at 9am. Drawing for door prize/raffle will be held at 11 pm. Test session at noon.

Negotiating for VE Coordinator for test session.

- There will be no March meeting, due to the Swapfest. Next meeting is April 9.

- Club's Hamfest date has been locked in. Saturday September 8 at Saratoga County Fairgrounds. Event is League-sanctioned and will be promoted by ARRL

- Hamfest 2007 date is now firm: Saturday September 8

#### **Secretary's Report:**

- There are still a number of members who have not yet renewed their memberships. Please send 2007 dues to Al Margadonna, KA1IEG (see officers list on last page). Payments will also be accepted at the swapfest.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Al reported that the club has a balance of over \$9800.
- Outflows included fairground rental for Hamfest, insurance, repeater hardline, NYS filing and HT for swapfest prize.

#### **Radio Officer's Report**

- Dave reported the following:

- Thanks to Jim K2LM & Frank KA2QYE for repairs to the repeater linking system.

- Swapfest doorprize (HT radio) has been purchased

- New building at County radio site is wired, permits secured for tower

- Needs annual update of ARES/RACES operators with license class, equipment available, power source, to keep his list current fro emergencies. Please send updated list via email to [datwell@nycap.rr.com](mailto:datwell@nycap.rr.com)

- No drills scheduled until members express interest; what kind of training do YOU want to participate in?

- County EMS is now using the clubs 147.000 repeater antenna to replace their damaged one. The 147.000 repeater is now using a slightly lower antenna on the same tower.

#### **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.

- Dennis WA2JWO reported that the HossTrader Hamfest will no longer be held.

- Jim K2LM suggested that the club promote our Hamfest more extensively in light of the demise of the HossTrader's.

- MSC to adjourn at 7:22PM

## **Public Service Glenn — KA2DTH**

Another PSE has been scheduled—the 4H Walk-A-Thon to be held on **April 28th** at the 4H Training

Center on Middle Line Road.

**April 22nd**—AIM Services Dog Walk at the Saratoga State Park.

**May 6th**—MS Walkathon at the track in Saratoga.

**June 10**—ADA Tour de Cure out of the Stillwater HS.

**July 14th**—MS Bike Tour out of Moreau State Park.

Please continue to visit the club website at [www.wa2umx.net](http://www.wa2umx.net) and watch the calendar. As our assistance is requested, dates and information will be posted there.

**If you would like to run an event or volunteer for an event, please contact me at 587-7745, or [ka2dth@arri.net](mailto:ka2dth@arri.net).**

## **Radio Officer Dave — N2FEP**



I hope everyone is enjoying our winter. By the time you read this we will be done with the big snow. I hope everyone was safe in the storm and had their go kits ready in case we needed to go out.

I am asking that everyone take a moment and email me with some vital information to keep on file for ARES and RACES. It is simple and must be up to date for record keeping.

Please provide the following information:

Name, Callsign, Address, Phone Number(S) please include cell phones I do NOT give your information to anyone . Please include your work number. Your license class, when you first got your license and when it renews. Are you an ARRL member?

Any extra training or expertise you may have. List of all of your current equipment and how old it is. Do you have a portable generator you can bring if needed. Or batteries etc. for emergency extended power needs.

Thank you for your information. There will be a

Skywarn class in May probably on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the West Crescent fire house. I'll pass on directions soon. It is being held there as there are very few places available. Wilton EMS will still be holding their class and we cannot have the meeting room there. It will run from 7 to 9 pm and might be a good alternative to the May meeting as it is on the same night.

Sorry on the Skywarn scheduling but they are tight on dates and we are tight on room it seems so we will make do. This will be a Skywarn basic class for beginners and recertifications I hope we can support the NWS on this school. Please pass the information on to others as it is not limited to hams.

Let's remember that field day is a good way to hone our skills at listening in a difficult environment and it also lets us check out our equipment and our skills at setting up our emergency equipment. I hope we do not have to do away with field day due to lack of participation. Everyone needs to plan ahead and make the effort to be at and run field day. Take a look and see if you could chair that event it is easy to do and you wont be alone, everyone will help, just ask.

73's  
Dave N2FEP

## Weekly Radio Net

### 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!

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

There will be no meeting in March, due to the club holding the SwapFest at the Solar Building in Ballston Spa on the 10th of March.

The next club meeting will be on April 9th at the

Wilton EMS building on Jones Road in Wilton.

## For Sale:

For the most current list of items, please visit the club website & view the 'Ham Ads' page.

If you have any items to list, please contact the editor of this newsletter.

## Club Calendar:

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

**April 9th, 7:30PM**—Saratoga Amateur Radio Assn. meeting, Wilton EMS Building

**April 22nd**—PSE—AIM Services DogWalk

**April 28th**—PSE—4H Walkathon

**May 6th**—PSE—MS Walkathon

**June 10th**—PSE—ADA Tour de Cure

**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

## On the Air

FCC to drop Morse Code requirements for all classes of Amateur Radio Licenses:

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>

147.000 is using a 91.5 Hz PL tone

Hosstraders hamfest is no more:

<http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg/>

Current US Frequency Allocations charts:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>

Country wide repeater list:

<http://www.usrepeaters.com/>

## Other Area Clubs

Albany Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.k2ct.net/>

Troy Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.n2ty.org/>

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.k2ae.org/>

Albany County Amateur Communications Services:

<http://www.acaces.org/>

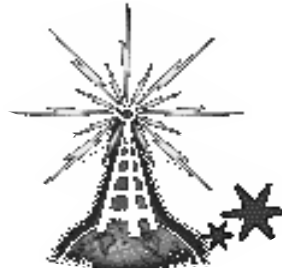
Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.smara.com/>



## 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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