

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

2009 ELECTION RESULTS

The following members were elected as officers of RACES/SCARA for the 2009-2010 year:

President—Dave Atwell, N2FEP
Vice President-Darlene Lake, N2XQG
Treasurer- Al Margadonna, KA1IEG
Secretary - Peter Miller, W2BEW

The Board of Directors elected for the same period are:

Dave Bargovic, NR2J
Walt Goddard, W2ZD
Dennis Kagel, WA2JWO
Byron Wilhoite, K2BD

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Club Receives K2DLL Callsign

On June 1, the FCC issued the call sign **K2DLL** to Saratoga County RACES, thanks to the efforts of Ed's widow, Alice, and Jim—K2LM. Effective immediately, all club repeaters, packet, Echolink, beacon, and APRS stations will carry this call. See a message from Alice elsewhere in this newsletter

Board of Directors Meeting May 11, 2009

The board meeting was called to order at 6:33 by President Darlene Lake, N2XQG. Present were BoD members Al – KA1IEG, Peter - W2BEW, Byron – K2BD, Dave – NR2J, Dennis – WA2JWO, and Dave—N2FEP, Skywarn/ARES Coordinator..

- Al – KA1IEG presented the treasurer's report: Opening balance - \$ 10,304.32; Closing balance \$10,304.32. We are holding our own despite the economic meltdown around the world..
- Peter – W2BEW reported that Steve Frenchak at Saratoga Hospital would be available on Tuesday 5/19 or Friday 5/22 to host members who wish to become familiar with the 2-meter amateur station at the hospital. A group subsequently visited the hospital on 5/19. Another visit will be scheduled in June.
- Byron – K2BD will again chair the club's Field Day efforts on June 27-28. He'll need help setting up on Friday afternoon at 1300 EDST and on Saturday morning, with operation from 2pm Saturday through 2pm Sunday, and with tear-down on Sunday afternoon. Plan to help out in any way you can. Location, once again, will be Wilton EMS on Jones Road (Exit 15 of I-87).
- Dave—NR2J presented the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for offices and board of directors for 2009-2010. Election was held at the General Meeting following the Board Meeting.



- Byron suggested that anyone accepting a position as an officer or on the board should make a commitment to attend the meetings. The sense of the board was in agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

General Meeting

- The May meeting is always election night. Candidates were presented by the Nominating Committee, and the members voted. The results are listed on the front of this newsletter.
- After elections, there was a display and discussion of several pieces of vintage radio gear from KC2CKO, NR2J and W2BEW.

Club Receives K2DLL Callsign of Founder Ed Whitaker — SK

As mentioned here previously, Alice Whitaker worked with the club to transfer the call of her late husband, Ed — K2DLL. On June 1, the FCC issued the call sign K2DLL to Saratoga County RACES, thanks to the efforts of Jim—K2LM. Effective immediately, all club repeaters, packet, Echolink, beacon, and APRS stations will carry this call. (see below)

To: Board of Directors - Saratoga County RACES

I, Alice Whitaker K2SJH wish to acknowledge to the Board of Directors and all those involved, my sincere thanks and gratitude of considering Ed's call letters for the Saratoga County Repeater.

I am greatly touched by your kindness. He would be most proud and yet humble. I know he is greatly missed by all of you as well as myself. He was a very kind and humble man and loved by all involved in his life.

Thanks again for passing on Ed's legacy.

*Love and God bless
Alice Whitaker K2SJH*

President's Column

from Dave Atwell—N2FEP

I want to thank everyone that took the time to call and ask me to return as the club president. I will make every effort to move our club forward. Communications changes in the county will be moving faster than ever and we all need to be ready to assist.

Every member's input is important to our success. Let's make our club exciting and a fun place to be. There are contests to operate, public service events, and Skywarn events, to mention a few.

Hope to see everyone at the monthly meetings and on the net weekly to keep in contact over the summer.

Dave N2FEP

Emergency Communications Update

I want to thank K2LM for obtaining our new club callsign K2DLL. It was very heart warming to hear the callsign on the air from the repeater. Ed gave me my first taste of ham radio when I was a boy.

Field day is approaching. If you can come and help out Friday during the day for setup, Byron can use your help. There is lots to do and setup for the 24 hour event. We will be at Wilton EMS as in years before. Let's make this a great field day.

The hospital radio system emergency test is coming up at the end of June or beginning of July. Thanks to Peter for getting that setup. I am glad to hear that members have gone to the hospital to see the radio operation and have some idea of where it is and how to use it. This drill will give us some worth to the emergency services system in the county and can foster our existence on the towers with our systems we use every day.

After the June meeting we will be at the end of our year and that means no formal meetings until September. The hamfest will be the next big event. Let's make this our best fest ever. Al KA1IEG is the chair and I am sure he will do a great job.

The net is continuing. Let's find new ways to use it to better and expand our participation.

73's
Dave N2FEP
Skywarn Coordinator, ARES E/C

Recent Public Service Events

(Ed Kear—AB2XA, chair)

Lion's Duathlon—May 24 (Jim-K2LM)

Skidmore—300 participants!

ADA Tour de Cure-June 7 (Lee-WB2NSC)

S.S. High School—1300+ bike riders!

30+ Radio Operator volunteers

Upcoming Events

Field Day—June 27-28 (Byron-K2BD)

Wilton EMS; Jones Road

SCARA HamFest—Sept. 12, 2009

Saratoga County Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa

Saratoga County Fair Needs Daytime Radio Operators

The club has offered to help the Fair staff its communications room during daytime hours (11 am to 5 pm) from July 14—19. This will allow us to keep our rental cost low for our annual HamFest in September.

Contact Peter—W2BEW (petermil@aol.com) if you can volunteer for radio duty at the Fair one or more days. There will be a group visit to the fairground in June to scope out the communication system.

Trading Post

Your equipment listed here — FREE.

Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 7 PM for our weekly net. This regular gathering offers on-air practice in net operation in preparation for emergency situations. It also provides timely information to area amateurs, and serves as 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 MHz machine during this net, so feel free to check in on any of these repeaters. PL tone is 91.5 Hz.

We are looking for volunteer Net Control Stations for this net. It's easy. Just keep track of the check-ins and give everyone a chance to speak.

Byron-K2BD says "Get ready for Field Day 2009!"

Byron will again chair the club's Field Day operations on June 27-28. We'll need your help with set-up, operating for 24 hours (SSB and CW), and tear-down. Tell Byron you're coming at k2bd@hotmail.com.

Next Meeting—June 9 Field Day Planning

Attend Monday's meeting and help prepare for the club's Field Day effort on June 27-28. Bring your ideas for antennas, rigs, software, and food. Let's roll up our sleeves and have fun!

Regional Hospital Communications Drill Now Scheduled for July 10

Recent news from NYS Department of Health (via Warren County RACES) indicates that the next regional Hospital Interoperability Communications Drill will be on July 10. A 2-meter hospital net will be coordinated out of Albany Medical Center.

Saratoga Hospital (SH) will likely participate in conjunction with Glens Falls Hospital. Time and duration are unknown, as yet. Another group of Saratoga volunteers will visit SH during June to become familiar with the amateur radio station installed at the local hospital.

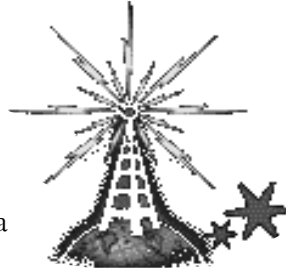
Volunteers will be needed to help staff the station during the drill and during any public health emergency. Further information will be distributed by email and on our Sunday evening net as it becomes available.





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. This repeater has a members-only phone patch. 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.
PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.

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