

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

From the President:

The program for January will be on the subject of "Summits on the Air". It will be presented by K1YMI from the Gloversville club. He has set up and participated in this event and has a listing of hilltops to be used. He will explain how it all works. Should be an interesting program.

The December meeting is our holiday get together so please bring a dessert type treat to share; the club will provide coffee, tea, and soda for all. Also we will again be donating toys to Catholic Charities of Saratoga. They serve families in our area. Please bring a new unwrapped toy (for ages newborn to teenage) for this worthwhile charity. Hope everyone can make it to the gathering.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

73

Dave—N2FEP

From the Radio Officer:

I want to thank everyone for running and participating in the Sunday evening nets. Without your participation in this event it would not take place. I am attempting to setup some training in the near future for net participants. I am looking into scheduled classes for RACES members. Please let me know what type of training we should be doing.

Happy Holidays

Dave—N2FEP

Board of Directors Meeting

Nov. 9, 2009

Meeting called to order at 6:38 by President, Dave Atwell—N2FEP

- Previous Minutes accepted
- Al, KA1IEG, presented Treasurer's report: Opening Balance = \$12,171.03; Expenditures = \$ 823.89; Closing Balance = \$11,347.14. Report accepted.
- Dave reported that RACES ID cards are in process
- Al is awaiting figures from Fairground regarding next year's rental

Meeting adjourned at approx. 6:55.

General Meeting – Nov. 9, 2009

Meeting convened at 7:30.

- Reviewed proceedings of the board meeting.
- Reminder to bring unwrapped toys and treat to share to December meeting
- Sid, K2LJH, delivered a very interesting presentation about the history of Azden Corp. in the ham radio arena. Thanks, Sid!

* **HOLIDAY PARTY**
at December 14 Mtg. —
7:30 pm at Wilton EMS,
on Jones Rd, Exit 15

Bring Unwrapped Toy
and Treat to Pass.

See you there!





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.

Member Note:

As you know, we haven't heard **Byron, K2BD**, on the air for quite some time. He has been hit hard by Lyme Disease, which he apparently contracted from a tick bite on Field Day weekend, behind Wilton EMS.

We received the following note from Byron: *I would like to add to the news letter a huge thank you for all the HAMS looking out for me. It truly shows the family of amateur radio and the closeness of the club, and this is something I will never forget.*

Thank You!

Byron

Why not send him a QSL card at 1 King Arthur Court, SS, NY 12866, and wish him well?

GET WELL SOON, BYRON!



Trading Post Buy-Sell-Trade

FOR SALE:

Tower—40-ft Rohn HDX, self-supporting

Rotor—Yaesu HD Model 800

Tribander Beam—Hy-Gain, 10-15-20 mtrs

6-Meter beam, 5-element

2-Meter beam, 11-element

300-ft coax, RG-8 equiv.

\$600 for all—You remove

Also Troy-Bilt wood chipper—\$250

Girls bike—5 miles—\$200 OBO

CONTACT AL - KA1IEG at 677-3316

FOR SALE: (from estate of Fred—WB2SMR)

Kenwood TS-180S transceiver, with power supply and external VFO

Murch Transmatch UT2000, with built-in SWR meter

Autec Keyer with Brown paddle key

Tower—45-ft, with triband beam, 2-meter ground-plane plus assorted extras

CONTACT JOHN - KA2MKB at 864-5107



January is a great time to start Emergency Communications Courses

As Dave, N2FEP has explained in the past, in order for our group to be activated by any governmental agency, we must be able to provide operators who are trained in FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) procedures. We must have completed the required FEMA courses and received certification. That way, when we report for communications duty in an emergency, we know what to expect, and we can interact seamlessly with other agencies.

There are four FEMA courses (also called NIMS courses) that constitute the basic ICS requirement: Courses #IS-100a, IS-200a, IS-700a, and IS-800b.

They are online courses that can be taken at your convenience, on your computer. Time required for each course is estimated at 3 hours, but we can all beat that, right? At the end, you must take a final exam to receive certification.

What better time than cold, dark January to refresh your emergency communications skills? If a few dozen members complete this series, we'll be ready for any emergency. Let's get started today.

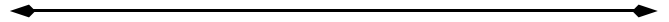
Access these course at the FEMA website:
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

And don't forget your Go-Kit for emergency communications. A typical kit would include at least one 2-meter HT (and manual), extra batteries, speaker mike, a ground-plane (or gain) antenna, wall charger, car charger, repeater directory, assorted connectors/adapters, message pads, pens/pencils, flashlights, VOM or multimeter, basic tools, electrical and duct tape, rope, bottled water, non-perishable food, first-aid kit, area maps, compass, gloves, hat, extra socks and underwear, insect repellent and TP. (Do you know what TP is?)

The next level would include a low-power HF transceiver, wire antenna and tuner, more batteries. Don't forget the Honda generator!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

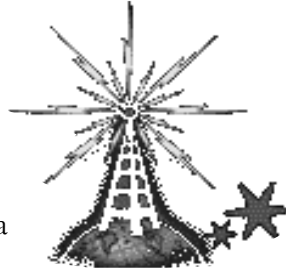
May the new year bring peace, health, prosperity, and lots more sunspots!





K2DLL ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:
<http://www.k2dll.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 now linked together full-time 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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