

# Sparks from the Spa



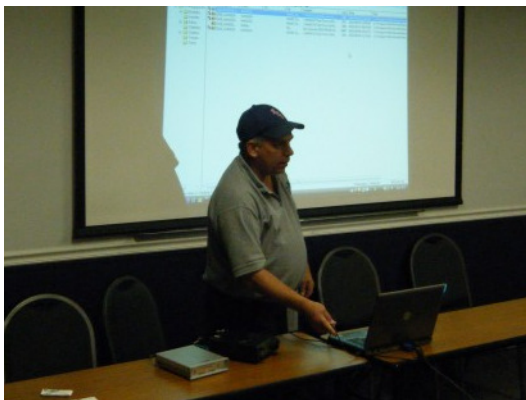
A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## D-Star Presentation at Next Meeting—Monday Nov. 8

Dave Hubbell- N2KTO will travel from New Jersey for Monday's meeting to deliver a presentation on D-Star operation. Digital Smart Technologies in Amateur Radio (D-STAR) is a digital voice and data protocol, and is one of the first on-air and packet-based standards that is designed specifically for amateur service use.

Dave will explain D-Star's capabilities and demonstrate how a D-Star network runs, For those who say there's nothing new in amateur radio, this presentation on D-Star should be a good example of how hams keep up with the latest technologies.

Thanks to the Warren County Amateur Radio Club for arranging this program. They'll be attending, too.



Here's Ward—KC2QKA at the October meeting explaining WinLink 2000 and AirMail as used on MARS (or something like that).

## ATTENTION REPEATER USERS

**The INPUT for the 147.000 repeater is changing from -600 kHz to +600 kHz.**

Please reset your 2-meter radios to transmit on 147.600 to access the .00 repeater. On most, that's a simple selection of positive offset instead of negative. This will match our 147.240 repeater and most 147.000 repeaters around the country. P/L tone on both repeaters will remain the same at 91.5 Hz.



The repeater has had reduced sensitivity for some time, and Jim K2LM, discovered why on a recent trip up Spruce Mtn. There's so much new stuff up there in conjunction with the county's all-new communications system, there's now a much higher level of local interference at the site. Some of it sits directly on the 147.400 kHz input frequency, effectively de-sensing our receiver. The new input frequency, 147.600, is much quieter and should result in much improved operation as a 60/00 repeater.

Jim ran into trouble retuning the oscillator on Spruce Mtn, and has to replace a component before the change, now scheduled for later in the coming week..



## Board of Directors Meeting Oct 11, 2010

Meeting convened at 6:33 pm.

- Minutes approved
- No treasurer's report (no treasurer at meeting)
- Peter reported that the club now has 124 current members — the highest number in several years
- At the recommendation of Jim-K2LM, the board agreed to provide up to \$600 toward a new UHF repeater and handhelds for Saratoga County Fairground. This will be on a commercial frequency and Jim will help facilitate. The board recognizes the willingness of fairground director to continue to offer us a rock-bottom rental rate for our September Hamfest. N2LUD will secure an FCC license for the fairground.
- K2LM reported that Frank-KA2QYE will be setting up a D-Star repeater at the site of his existing repeater. Board agreed to assist by covering costs of air card required for Internet connection at \$48/month for 12 months.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

### General Meeting

Meeting convened at 7:33 pm.

- Peter advised of two upcoming contests: New York QSO SSB Party and QRP Fall CW Contest.
- Fred-W2EMS announced upcoming Mohawk Towpath Duathlon and asked for volunteers

The capacity crowd at the general meeting was treated to a great presentation by Ward Neal, KC2QKA. Ward spoke on alternate communications systems being implemented by the NYS Department of Health. He demonstrated WinLink 2000 and Air Mail, over HF frequencies assigned to Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS).

The demonstration was hampered by some interference problems we're experiencing on HF at the Wilton EMS HQ. Local QRM generated by electronics and computer equipment in the building creates a very high noise level on receive. On transmit, our signal gets into the local PA System used throughout the building.

Probably the only way to overcome these problems is to move our HF dipole off the tower and farther away from the building. Volunteers?

The December meeting — (Dec 13) is our holiday get together. Bring a dish or snack to share and an unwrapped toy for charity.

The January meeting — (Jan 10) Not only do we want to keep the winter doldrums at bay, we want the club members to have fun with ham radio! At the January meeting, Bob Raffaele, W2XM, and Nathaniel Greenman, KB2HPX, will be hosting a quiz game, ***Ham Radio Jepper-dee***. They'll be asking questions at all levels of difficulty and from many different topics, and— there will be prizes awarded! Don't miss it.



This space for notes —

Not too much news from the board or from members this month, so feel free to doodle below.



## Public Service Event *(sort of)*

Reminder—At the December meeting/holiday gathering, Dave-N2FEP will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for kids of all ages. We've been supporting a local charity in this effort for many years. Thanks.



FROM THE ARRL —

## Solar Update

Last week's report in the ARRL letter said: "Although this week saw a high daily sunspot number of 74 on October 26, the average sunspot number for the week dropped more than five points to 50.3. One new sunspot group, numbered 1119, emerged this week, but 1117 -- which has been visible since October 19 -- has become huge."

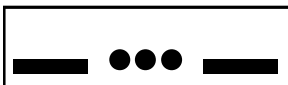
This is certainly an improvement over all those years when there were NO sunspots to report. Signal strengths are rising. DX is rolling in. Time to get on HF!



## Trading Post

List your equipment For Sale, Wanted, or Free items here. Send info to [petermil@verizon.net](mailto:petermil@verizon.net).

## Do you know what this is?



If you haven't tried CW, you may not know what this symbol is. It is a combination of the letters B and T, sent as dah-dit-dit-dit-dah. It's used to indicate a pause, or break, between thoughts. Some operators even string a few of these together while they compose their thoughts.

If you thought CW was obsolete, you should listen in during one of the CW contests at the beginning or end of this month. It's wall-to-wall Morse code..

## Contest News

### November ARRL CW Sweepstakes

Nov. 6, 2100Z—Nov. 8, 0300Z; 160-10 mtrs

### November ARRL SSB Sweepstakes

Nov. 20, 2100Z—Nov. 22, 0300Z 160-10 mtrs

More info at [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

### CQ Worldwide CW Contest

Nov. 27, 0000Z—Nov.28, 2400Z 160-10mtrs

More info at [www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com)



## Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 7 PM for our weekly net. 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.

You may also check into the Warren County RACES Net for practice in message handling on Tuesday evenings, 7 PM, on 146.73 (PL 100) or 147.135 (PL 123.0).



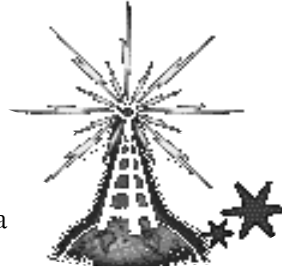
*Happy Thanksgiving!*





### 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 (+600 input) 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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