



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

D-Star Explained at November Meeting

Dave Hubbell- N2KTO travelled from New Jersey for November'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 brought a lot of equipment, and he gave a great explanation of D-Star's capabilities. Unfortunately, his demonstration of how a D-Star network runs was hampered by our inability to access the network at Wilton EMS, because of security issues.

Future presentations will depend on our solving that problem and the extremely high EMI noise level in the building. For that, we'll probably have to move our dipole antenna off the tower and back into the trees in the rear of the building.



Dave—N2KTO

ATTENTION REPEATER USERS

The INPUT for the 147.000 repeater has changed 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 matches our 147.240 repeater and most 147.000 repeaters around the country. P/L tone on both repeaters remains 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.

**SCARA's
Holiday Party
Scheduled
for Next
Meeting**

**Next
Meeting
Dec. 13
7:30 pm**

ABBREVIATED NEWSLETTER

This edition of the SCARA Newsletter is shorter than usual. Your editor will be going into Saratoga Hospital on Monday December 6 for a total knee replacement. All of the appts, testing, blood donations, etc. that lead up to it, plus the many chores I've had to race to finish before being laid up, have drastically reduced my available time for other things. This newsletter is one of the items I've had to cut short. I've also run out of time to get this into the mail for those few members who don't have email. Sorry.

I hope to be back into a normal routine in another month. Happy Holidays! Peter—W2BEW



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.



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).

Trading Post -

Hal Post forwarded the following list of equipment donated to the Schenectady Club. Contact Hal for details & offers.

SARA Donated Equipment for sale

offers to ak2e@arrl.net

shipping cost by buyer

Item Description Model comments

1 AcousticResearch Stereo Amp

2 ArthurThomas Synchronizer 54

3 Collins Receiver 75A-4 3 installed mechanical filters \$1k Min (J31,J20,J.05) and 6kc filter in separate box

4 Dyna kit Pre Amp PAC

5 Dynaco FM Tuner FM5

6 Eico HF Tranceiver SSB 753 with mic.

7 Eico Power supply 751

8 GE CB Radio 40 Ch 3-5812A

9 Goldstar Portable Radio TCR131

10 Grass Instruments A.C.Preamplifier P5R

11 Grass Instruments Stimulator 54

12 Grass Instruments Stimulation Isolation SIU4B

13 Hallicrafters Speaker R46

14 Heathkit Transceiver CW QRP HW-16 asking \$87

15 Heathkit VFO HG-10B asking \$78

16 Heathkit Audio Generator AG-9A

17 HewlitPackard Test Oscillator 650A With man, case

18 KLH Stereo Receiver AM/FM 27

19 Leeds&Northorp Inductance Substitution box 4747

20 Midgard Charting System

21 misc. chassis transformer and choke

22 misc. modified receiver

23 misc. reel to reel tape deck no case

24 Mitsubishi VCR HS330UR with remote

25 Mitsubishi CRT Color Monitor 1901

26 Motorola 8 Track Player

27 Precision Tube Tester Serial 910

28 Topico 35mm Camera SC916 new in box

29 Zenith AM Radio Z848277 Plastic case.

30 Zenith AM FM Radio N 731 nice case

Happy Holidays!

