



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

From the President:

Next Monday is our annual election. Our club is in need of members to step up and try an officer or board position. We sure could use you, and it's not a lot of work. We also need a program director – a person with some ideas, who can contact others to come and speak at meetings about items of interest. We have lots of talented people in our hobby, and hearing about what they're doing would make our meetings a lot more interesting.

Thanks to everyone who assisted on the ADA Tour De Cure. Many thanks to Lee WB2NSC as the chair and all the others that helped. Without the electronic expertise of K2LM, KA2QYE and others we could not do what we do for the Diabetes folks.

Field Day is coming up fast and we need everyone to pitch in and give a hand. Let's make this a field day to remember. Many thanks to Byron for his assistance.

This is our last meeting until after the Hamfest in September. We expect another successful hamfest, but now with AI - KA1IEG gone, we will need more help to get it done once again. The board is deciding what equipment to give away this year as a door prize. Price increases are affecting our decision. If you have any input, please let us know either via email or at the board meeting in June, as we will be making the decision to purchase the equipment then.

All the best! See you all at field day!
Dave - N2FEP



ARRL FIELD DAY

**Fri-Sat-Sun
JUNE 24, 25, 26
Wilton EMS Bldg; Jones Road**

Board of Directors Meeting May 9, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by president, N2FEP.

- Acting Treasurer Darlene, N2XQG, reported an opening balance of \$11,670.80. After expenses and interest, the closing balance was \$11,191.76.
- Darlene also reported that Jim, KG2H, has agreed to stand for election to the treasurer position.
- Purchase of a radio for the Hamfest door prize was tabled until June, while Dave, N2FEP looks into costs of HF vs. dual-band VHF/UHF radio.
- Byron, K2BD, advised that he must leave the board of directors to focus on his health. Byron is fighting Lyme disease, which has seriously curtailed his activities. He'll still lead Field Day, but will need much help from the rest of us.
- Peter, W2BEW, will contact Wilton EMS about permission to climb the tower and remove the Buckmaster dipole antenna. We will use the dipole for Field Day and then relocate it farther from the building, at the edge of the woods.
- Computers needed for Field Day to replace those previously provided by Fred, W2EMS. Frank, KA2QYE, who sets up the network for us, and Jim, K2LM, report that the club owns 4 laptops and one tower unit that will be there. That leaves one more laptop needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

General Meeting

Meeting convened at 7:32 pm.

(Continued on next page)



General Meeting, cont.

Items discussed:

- June is SCARA Election Meeting. Discussion of need for new faces on Board and as officers, and program coordinator, Please throw your hat into the ring and help guide your club through the next 12 months.
- Field Day – June 24-25-26. Please come and help out with set-up, tear-down, or operating.
- Heard Tim, N2MBX, provide summary of successful radio demo at Boy Scout Camporee at Boy Haven on April 30.
- Reminder of East Greenbush Hamfest that was coming on May 14.
- Several public service events coming up; see listing elsewhere in this newsletter

Meeting adjourned about 8:00 pm.

Be a part of Field Day June 25-26

SCARA's Field Day station will once again be at the Wilton EMS headquarters on Jones Road in Wilton. FD Coordinator, Byron Wilhoite, K2BD, will lead the operation, and he'll need all the help he can get, especially since AI-KA1IEG has moved to TN.

All hands are needed for antenna set-up on Friday afternoon, 6/24, and we'll need operators on phone and CW on Saturday and Sunday — including over-night

This is our biggest, most-fun, operating event. Let Byron know you're willing to help out at the meeting or at k2bd@hotmail.com.

Time for Club Elections Your Club Needs You

According to club bylaws, the June meeting is when elections are held for officers and directors. The club will be electing a president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, as well as four directors to the board.

The club needs new ideas and new blood Please consider lending your talents and a little time to our organization to keep it vibrant and alive. We encourage you to suggest nominees and to offer your services, too. Please? And thank you!

Upcoming Public Service events

The following events are supported by SCARA members and other amateurs. All could use volunteers to help facilitate communications. Please contact the person listed for each if you can help. Thank you.

July 16—MS Bike Event

West Mountain

Need 20 amateurs

Mike Mollica, K2SWF, k2swf@yahoo.com

July 19-24 —Saratoga County Fair

County Fairgrounds, Prospect St, Ballston Spa

Need daytime ops from 10 am to 5 pm. (3.5 hr shifts)

Sign up at June mtg. or contact Peter, W2BEW, at petermil@verizon.net

September 10—Double H Bike Challenge*

TBA

September 10—SCARA Annual HamFest

Saratoga County Fairgrounds

Don't Miss It!

October 15—Rosie's Walk, Lions/Diabetes

Galway High School

Dave Atwell, N2FEP. datwell@nycap.rr.com

October 16—Mohawk Towpath Duathlon

Fred Halley, W2EMS, w2ems@arrl.net

*To be confirmed

From the ARRL:

Hams Hasten to Help as Central Mass. Experiences Rare Tornado

At least two tornadoes touched down in Central Massachusetts late in the afternoon on Wednesday, June 1. The storm pulverized or sheared off the tops of roofs on Main Street in Springfield. A debris-filled funnel swept into downtown from the west, then swirled across the Connecticut River, which runs through the city. Like their counterparts in Alabama and Missouri who responded when storms hit those regions, hams in Western MA volunteered their time and radios to the American Red Cross and NWS.

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ARRL—cont.

Special guest at Dayton Hamvention

Hamvention chairman Michael Kalter W8CI, reports that FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski was in attendance. No fooling! Genachowski had a flight diverted to Dayton Friday night because of the storms in the Midwest and was told it might be a problem finding a hotel room because of the Hamvention. He found a room and decided to check out ham radio for himself and this big gathering of hams from around the world.

Genachowski spent about two hours circulating and chatting with folks about the advanced technology in use in amateur radio today. The Dayton Hamvention committee estimated attendance of at least 20-thousand.

FEMA Administrator Calls Amateur Radio "The Last Line of Defense"

In an FCC forum on earthquake communications preparedness, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate described the Amateur Radio operator as "the ultimate backup, the originators of social media." The May 3 forum at FCC HQ brought together officials from the White House, Homeland Security, US Geological Survey, FEMA, the FCC and the private sector.

Fugate referenced Amateur Radio, saying "I think that there is a tendency because we have done so much to build infrastructure and resiliency in all our other systems, we have tended to dismiss the role of ham radio. 'When Everything Else Fails.' Amateur Radio oftentimes is our last line of defense."

Solar Update

It's been a long time since sunspot numbers passed the 100 mark, but last week, that's exactly where the sunspot numbers have been, reaching a high of 132. The average daily sunspot numbers increased more than 55 points to 89.9, while the average solar flux rose nearly 20 points to 103.1. The next period of high geomagnetic activity is projected for June 22-27 – Field Day!



On the Air: ARRL June VHF QSO Party

Lots of RF will be generated on 6 meters and up the weekend of June 11-12 during the *2011 ARRL June VHF QSO Party*. While many amateurs think of the VHF+ bands as a "local" band for public service, emergency communications or even a bit of fun on FM repeaters, weak-signal VHF+ enthusiasts know better. Even with a modest station, it's possible to work hundreds, or even thousands of miles on the VHF bands during a good opening. Try it out!

SCARA Public Service Excitement

There were two public service events recently where SCARA members helped to coordinate the action — the Lion's Duathlon and ADA Tour de Cure, both launched from Saratoga Springs. Join us at the next one!

Duathlon Start—

300 anxious runners and bikers ready to take off



The race to the Porta-Potties required much radio communications support.



More than 1500 bikers get ready to start the *Tour de Cure* for Diabetes.



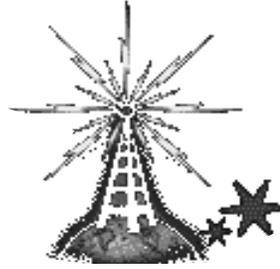
KA2QYE shows how to turn a Miata into an APRS station





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. 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. Both repeaters have a +600 kHz input. 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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