



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Operate your HF rig remotely from anywhere

**Enjoy radio from your vacation condo
or travel trailer — without antennas!
Find out how at our next meeting—**

Steve Rosenberg, WA2TTP, has agreed to demonstrate how he operates his radio while away from home. It's not magic, but it is pretty amazing. It's done via the internet, so you'll need an Internet connection to do it, and Steve will show us how at the November 14 meeting.



Capital Region Commuter Net explained at Sep- tember meeting. Best-kept secret for 16 years

Jock Elliott, KB2GOM, presented an overview of the traffic net he's been running every weekday morning for 16 years. It's there for commuters from about 6 to 8 am. The net offers information about accidents, hazards, or slow-downs along the highways of our region. Jock also provides timely input to local police agencies about problems spotted along the roads by fellow hams.



Join Jock and the commuter assistance network, weekday mornings on the 146.94 repeater (no PL)

From the President:

Just wanted to remind everyone that December is the holiday get-together and encourage each member to bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child – from baby to 18 yrs -- and a food item to share like cookies, cakes, fudge, chicken, lobster, steak or whatever. We will have soda and coffee.

ARES UPDATE:

As many of you may know, I have been looking for a replacement as the Emergency Coordinator for ARES. It is time that I started stepping away as the leader and have others step up to the challenge.

I have found someone willing to take on the job of EC – Fred Halley, W2EMS. Fred will do a great job as the EC, and I will continue to work with him as I can. Please give him the cooperation he'll need in this important position.

Thank you all for your cooperation over the years in ARES. I couldn't have done that without everyone's help. Keep up the great work we all do in time of need.

Dave N2FEP



Board of Directors Meeting October 10, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm by Dave-N2FEP

- Previous minutes approved
- Treasurer report submitted & accepted; new balance \$11,571.62
- Public service: The Apple Run was successfully run last weekend and the Mohawk Duathlon is coming up on October 16
- Event dates: **Swapfest—March 10;**
HamFest—Sept. 8.
- Dave reported that the 147.36 repeater will soon be linked to NYS Emergency Mgmt. Ofc. in Albany for use in emergencies. At that point, Echolink will no longer be available.
- Dave, NR2J, advised that club shirts are available through Bob-W2XM for \$18. For details, contact Dave at sardelta@aol.com.

General Meeting

- Call to order—7:30 pm

The evening's program was presented by KB2GOM, Jock Elliott, on the Commuter Assistance Network. For 16 years, this net has detected problems on area highways, reported problems to authorities, and shared this info among participants. Backup net control ops encouraged — especially to handle an afternoon commuter net. Contact Jock at jock.elliott@gmail.com.

Thanks, Jock!

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

Programs for the next meetings have been set.

November 14— Steve, WA2TTP, will describe how he has set up his HF station to be operated remotely from anywhere (Florida?) over the Internet.

December 12— is our annual holiday gathering.

January 9— Our Program Committee will be announcing this exciting program shortly.

Diane de Avila, W2NU, joins mentoring group

Diana de Avila, W2NU has now joined with Glenn Cooper, W2BK, in Capital Area Radio Enthusiasts (CARE), a group dedicated to spreading awareness of amateur radio and helping interested folks get licensed.

CARE expects to run 6 to 8 license classes per year throughout the region. So far, they have helped mentor more than 40 new Technicians into the hobby. They plan upgrade classes, as well, and will provide the kind of “Elmer” guidance that many of us had when we got started.

CARE is currently looking for additional instructors and interested “newbies.” To learn more, contact them at www.hamsthatcare.com. The US ham population just reached an all-time high — 700,000. Let's keep growing!

Jim, K2LM, is moving. We'll need to relocate SCARA's Field Day equipment

After many years on the Schuylerville farm, Jim and Christine McKnight have decided to downsize. They've listed their house, barn and land with a realtor, and they're looking for their next home.

How does that affect us? Well all our Field Day supplies — portable tower, beam antenna, “coffin,” and miscellaneous equipment have been stored in Jim's barn for several years. They need a new home soon.

Got any ideas? If you have or know of some enclosed, dry space to store this stuff — about the size of a utility trailer — please let us know. Contact petermil@aol.com or call 893-7484.



Shhhh — Jim is still cooking.
Don't tell him hamfest is over.

From ARRL/QST:

Hams Assist in Aftermath of October Storm

A rare nor'easter brought historic snowfall and widespread damage and power outages from the Mid-Atlantic into the Northeast United States on the last weekend of October. Up and down the Atlantic seaboard, radio amateurs provided various critical services to the National Weather Service through the SKYWARN weather spotter program, and provided communications support to local, state and federal emergency management groups.

Amateur Radio operations at the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Massachusetts were active on WX1BOX, the office's Amateur Radio station. Hams in Taunton were active for 21 hours supporting meteorological and damage data.

In Connecticut, section leaders were conducting their Simulated Emergency Test (SET) when the storm hit. "Because of the storm, we truncated the SET and braced for the unseasonable October snow," explained Emergency Coordinator Wayne Gronland, N1CLV. "The planned scenario was quickly displaced by a *real* nor'easter! SKYWARN operators across the section were activated on Saturday afternoon, and nets went late into the evening gathering snow, rain and wind data for NWS."

President Obama nominates two FCC commissioners

President Barack Obama has nominated two new FCC Commissioners: Jessica Rosenworcel -- to replace retiring Commissioner Michael Copps, and Ajit Varadaraj Pai to fill the seat vacated by Meredith Attwell Baker, who left the FCC in June 2010.

The FCC has been down one commissioner since Baker's departure, and Copps' departure at the end of the year would leave the agency with only three commissioners: two Democrats and one Republican. Only three sitting Commissioners may be members of the same political party. At present, Chairman Julius Genachowski, Copps and Mignon Clyburn are Democrats. If confirmed, Pai will join Commissioner Robert McDowell as one of the two Republicans on the Commission.

We have SUNSPOTS!

Sunspot activity — and good HF propagation conditions — have been building for months, and it seems we've finally hit a high spot. October was a great month, especially on 10 and 12 meters. Those who took part in the CQ Worldwide/SSB contest on Oct. 29-30 reported the DX bands opened early and stayed open late.

We still have ARRL Sweepstakes/SSB (Nov. 19-20) and CQWW/CW (Nov. 26-27) to go.

HAPPY DX-ing!!



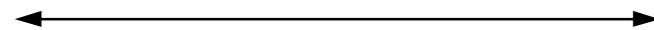
Repeater news from Jim, K2LM:

Starting around noon on Friday Oct. 28, the 147.000 repeater's receiver on 147.600 MHz was being opened by noise. The noise was fooling the PL decoder and keeping the repeater on the air continuously.

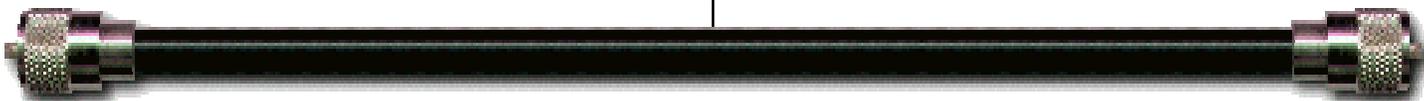
So Friday afternoon I turned off the 147.600 MHz receiver, meaning you could not access .00 directly on 2 meters. The Spruce UHF repeater on 448.225 MHz remains on the air. The 147.240 repeater is also on the air and Echolink is also working just fine through 24.

Because of the snow storm, I have not been able to get up Spruce Mountain, but I hope that by the next club meeting I can get there and determine where the noise is coming from and see if I cannot fix the issue before winter really sets in at the site.

Jim—K2LM



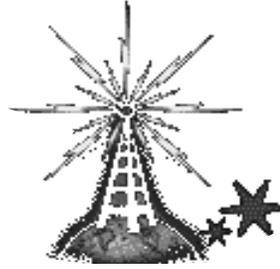
See you at Monday's meeting—11/14 at 7:30pm at Wilton EMS HQ. Hear WA2TTP describe how you can operate your HF rig remotely from almost anywhere.





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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