



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

December Meeting = Holiday Party

Instead of a boring old meeting, this month we get together to enjoy some refreshments and swap tall tales. Monday night at 7pm (+/-), bring an appetizer or dessert dish to share and spend some quality time with your fellow hams.

Also, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to a local charity for kids (toddlers to 18 y.o.) who might not otherwise get anything for Christmas.

If we're lucky, Dave, N2FEP, will bring his accordion and lead us in some rousing carols.



From the President:

I want to thank everyone for a great year so far. The bands are in fantastic shape now, so we should all get on and enjoy our hobby like never before.

I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and thank you all for the toy support, as many children would be without this year without help from us.

Please take the time to email the board members and pass on your ideas for programs for the new year.

73 Happy Holidays

Dave N2FEP



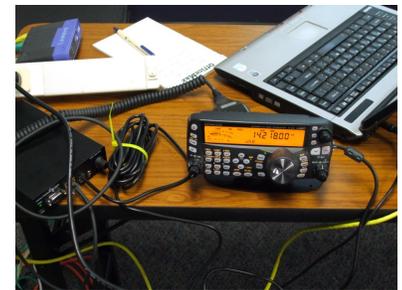
WA2TTP shows how to enjoy HF radio from anywhere there's Internet

At the November club meeting, Steve Rosenberg, WA2TTP, gave a fascinating demonstration of how he operates his radio while away from home. He can control every aspect of his home station — from turning on power supplies to pointing the beam antenna remotely from vacation condo to visiting family.



Steve gives an overview of how he set up his station to be run from a laptop.

Here's the gear that Steve takes on the road to control his home station.



This is the display from Steve's laptop, which allows him to turn his station on/off, select the antenna, rotate his beam or open the garage door.

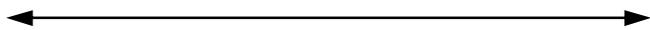
Board of Directors Meeting November, 2011

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

- Previous minutes approved
- Treasurer, KG2H, was out of town. Peter relayed his report, which was accepted; new balance \$11,468.61
- Jim-K2LM gave a report on the status of the 147.36 repeater, which is putting out very low power. Board authorized Jim/Frank to diagnose problem and make repairs before weather turns.
- Peter advised that the club can save \$100 by transferring liability coverage to Hays Affinity — the company recommended by ARRL. Board approved change and payment.
- Fred-W2EMS has been appointed Emergency Coordinator for ENY Section by ARRL. He plans to reactivate ARES and will soon send a survey to area hams to determine their availability and willingness to train and serve in emergency communications. Please say yes.

General Meeting

- Call to order—7:30 pm
- Great presentation by WA2TTP on remote station operation.



Upcoming Meetings & Programs

December 12— annual holiday gathering.

January 9— We need a topic for our meeting program. Please send your ideas and requests to our Program Committee/Board of Directors.



Repeater updates— from K2LM

147.00 repeater:

The 147.000 MHz receiver is once again being bothered by digital noise. The noise brings up the 00 and 24 repeaters and is very annoying. For several days I have had to turn off the receiver so that it does not lock up the entire system. When I turn off the 147.600 MHz receiver, the UHF repeater, 147.240 and Echolink on 24 and UHF are still usable. Also you will hear the 147.00 transmitter ID but you cannot use the 147.00 repeater.

I think I know what is causing the noise but with winter about to start to dump snow on us, I don't think the problem can be resolved until spring.

147.360 repeater:

On Nov. 26, KA2QYE climbed the tower and found that the 147.360 repeater has a bad antenna. At this time the repeater is using a temporary low gain antenna. Since the board voted to allocate money for repairs, a new DB224 antenna has been ordered at a cost to us at far less than list price. But the repeater also suffered from a nearby lightning strike a few weeks ago. N2QFT says it was very exciting. The strike seems to have made a mess of the repeater's controller. At one minute the repeater might be there and then when you try to use it an hour later, it is not there.

We are also planning to replace the present controller with a SCom controller. The 24 and 00 repeaters have been using SCom controllers for years.

Jim
K2LM

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



From ARRL:

Frank Frissone - KA2QYE earns ARRL Hudson Division Technical Achievement Award

Congratulations, Frank, on being recognized for your many technical contributions to amateur radio and ham radio operators.



The award is for the ham who exemplifies “continuation of the Amateur’s proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self.”

Frank travelled to the Hudson Division annual meeting in New Jersey to accept the award from Division Director Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF.



Frank is a native of Schenectady and a 27-year employee of the FBI-Albany Division as Telecommunications Manager. First licensed in 1982, Frank holds an Extra class license and has been active in many aspects of the hobby, from satellite communication to restoring old radios. Frank has one of the most impressive collections of vintage ham gear anywhere.

He built and operates the 2-meter KA2QYE repeater (147.375 MHz), and in 2010 he established a UHF D-Star repeater, the first of its kind in Upstate NY.

Frank has been an Army MARS member for nearly 20 years and is a Winlink 2000 Pactor 3 RMS SYSOP. He maintains an HF, VHF RMS at his home which serves many State and Federal agencies and a number of State EOCs.

Fred Halley—W2EMS appointed Emergency Coordinator for Eastern NY Section

ARRL has appointed Fred Halley Emergency Coordinator for the Eastern New York section. Fred presented an overview of his short-term plans at the November meeting.



Fred intends to reactivate the Amateur Radio Emergency Service that would be activated to support local municipal agencies in case of a failure in their communications systems. He has already resumed the SCARA 7 pm Sunday net on the club repeaters.

Fred has begun to survey area hams to find out who’s willing to train and serve in emergency communications. Participants will be encouraged to take the FEMA online courses to learn the basics of the Incident Command System.

If you haven’t heard from Fred and you’d like more information, contact him at fhalley@hanys.org.



The ARRL 10 Meter Contest: Get On While the Bands Are Hot!

Ten meters -- in case you haven't heard, is alive in a big way! That means that the ARRL 10 Meter Contest -- coming up this weekend — December 10-11 -- is going to be the one of the best we've seen in years!

Yes, 10 meters is back. During the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest this past Thanksgiving weekend, many stations worked more than 100 DXCC entities on 10 meters. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said that he keeps hearing from numerous hams, telling him that they’ve never experienced a 10 meter opening before, because they weren’t licensed during the last solar cycle peak.

Find the rules at www.arrl.org.

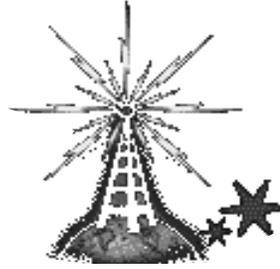


**See you Monday night, Dec. 12, at the
SCARA annual Holiday Party— 7pm (+/-) at
Wilton EMS, Jones Rd, north of Exit 15**



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.

OFFICERS

President

Dave Atwell—N2FEP
P.O. Box 41
Rock City Falls, NY 12863
datwell@nycap.rr.com

Vice President:

Darlene Lake N2XQG
314 Louden Rd. Lot 84
Saratoga Springs NY 12866
dar@saratogaspringsny.us

Secretary:

Peter Miller—W2BEW
PO Box 353; 3131 Route 9N
Greenfield Center, NY 12833
petermil@aol.com

Treasurer:

Jim Polewczak—KG2H
40 Cook Circle
Gansevoort, NY 12831
kg2h@nycap.rr.com

Radio Officer:

Dave Atwell

Sysop K2DLL DX Cluster:

Rich Casullo—WZ2D
7 Crooked Street
Charlton, NY 12019

Directors:

Diana DeAvila—W2NU
35 Larkspur Drive
Ballston Spa, NY 129020
w2nu@arrl.net

Dave Bargovic—NR2J

676 East Line Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
sardelta@aol.com

Dennis Kagel—WA2JWO

147 Hayes Road
Schuylerville, NY 12871-1836
kadell@mybluelight.com

Tim Kemp—N2MBX

39 Hemlock Drive
Greenfield Center, Ny 12833
tkemp@nycap.rr.com



Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association
c/o Peter Miller—W2BEW
PO Box 353; 3131 Route 9N
Greenfield Center, NY 12833

