



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SCARA's HAMFEST to be held on Sept 8

Our club's annual hamfest will be held on Sept 8, from 7 AM to 2 PM, at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa. At this time, new equipment vendors KJI Electronics, Radio Oasis, and Saunders Electronics are confirmed to be in attendance. For further information about the hamfest, contact Darlene Lake, dar@saratogaspringsny.us or 518-587-2385.

There will be an amateur radio exam given in conjunction with the hamfest, starting at 9:30 in the 4H Cooperative Extension building at 50 West High Street in Ballston Spa. Please arrive between 9:00 and 9:15 for the test. Come with a copy of your current ham license, plus a second form of ID, and any CSCE's which have not been acted upon by the FCC yet. Bring pencil and pen for the actual exam. The fee dictated by the ARRL, is \$15.00

This is a walk in exam, and pre registration is not required. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Polewczak, KG2H@nycap.rr.com or 518-695-2064

Bob Barter KB2TBB - SK

It is with much sadness that we report that Bob Barter, passed away on the afternoon of July 21. Bob was a long time member of the club, and will be missed. He supplied a great deal of enthusiasm, and was very active in the various walkathons in which our club participated.

Hal Post reports that Mrs. Barter is looking for help taking down Bob's various antennas. Please contact ak2e@arrl.net for coordination. Bob has a small driveway on a small road. No parking on the side of the road; so we will have to car pool. Most antennas are on Radio Shack mast, and at least two are mounted on the roof. You are welcome to the mast, feed line and antennas. Would like to get this done by the 3rd week in Sept. Also there is a large collection of Electrical Hobby magazines for free (I'm sure Mrs Barter would accept donations).



Tour de Cure

On June 3, the March of Dimes held it's annual Tour de Cure in Saratoga, as well as in various other cities throughout the United States. The club again provided communication between the headquarters at Saratoga High School, and the various bicycle routes. A preliminary report from the March of Dimes indicates that the Saratoga tour had over one million dollars of pledges for the riders.

Red Cross signs communications coop agreement with amateur radio league

ALBANY, NY (July 12, 2012) - After working together for more than 70 years to help victims of disaster in eastern New York State, local units of the American Red Cross and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) have signed a Statement of Understanding renewing their partnership for another five years. The SOU provides guidelines for the two organizations to cooperate for purposes of disaster planning and response.

The agreement was announced this week by Gary Striar, CEO of the American Red Cross Northeastern New York Region, and Pete Cecere, Section Manager of the Eastern New York Section of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio.

"We often find that having adequate communications coverage during a disaster can be challenging," said Striar. "This agreement with ARES will really strengthen the Red Cross' ability to communicate well with our operations volunteers and our partners during a disaster response."

John Cummings, Board Member for the American Red Cross of the Mid-Hudson Valley was instrumental in the renewal of this partnership. Cummings has been an ARES member for the past 15 years and said that it's very common to have these kinds of partnerships in the Southeast region of the United States, where natural disasters tend to be more frequent and more damaging.

Under the new agreement, the Red Cross will incorporate ARES in its response plans, exercises, and drills, and provide training opportunities and facilities to ARES members. ARES will provide communications personnel and equipment in support of Red Cross disaster relief operations, and consult on operation and support of Red Cross communication systems. Members of both organizations will also share ideas and resources to expand the available pool of multi-skilled volunteers.

"ARES volunteers are communications experts, and our role is to support the operational structure of agencies like the Red Cross," said Cecere. "The planning and training provided under this agreement will spell out what they need from us and help us be ready to respond quickly and effectively whenever the need arises. I'm very grateful to Dave Galletly, our Section Emergency Coordinator, for a great accomplishment here."

This cooperative partnership will impact the following counties within the American Red Cross Northeastern New York Region: Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Ulster, Warren and Washington.

Since its founding in 1881 by visionary leader Clara Barton, the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) has been the nation's premier emergency response organization. As part of a worldwide movement that offers neutral humanitarian care to the victims of war, the American Red Cross distinguishes itself by also aiding victims of devastating natural disasters.

The American Radio Relay League (www.arrl.org) has been the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators since 1914. The League is organized for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, the fostering of education, the promotion and conduct of research and development, and the dissemination of technical, educational and scientific information.

Field Day 2012

The annual rite of Field Day occurred once again on June 23 and 24. With the exception of rain for about the first 2 hours, the weather cooperated nicely. We had 18 club members sign the log, and we operated for the entire 24 hours from 2 PM Saturday. In addition, we had 10 non hams stop in to see what was going on, and learn a little bit about ham radio, and its capabilities.

We practiced our skills in emergency setup and operations. As they did last year NEMSAR, (Northeast Mobile Search And Rescue) supported us with their van and equipment.

Dave NR2J and Sid K2LJH, did a great job on the food this year. Sid was able to secure a generous donation from Price Chopper, and as a result of that, we dined on steaks Saturday evening. As Dave learned, it helps a lot to let the meat defrost BEFORE you throw it on the grill.

We were down a little this year on the phone effort, and up a lot on the CW side. As usual the 20 meter phone station was our superstar, surpassing last year's effort. A fun time was had by all, and we will all do it again next year, so mark June 22 and 23, 2013 on your calendars.

2012			
Band	cw	ph	Grand Total
2		3	3
6		4	4
10	1	1	2
15	21	25	46
20		865	865
40	237	54	291
80	141	47	188
Grand Total	400	999	1399

2011			
	cw	ph	Grand Total
	10	65	75
		10	10
	4	89	93
	42	857	899
	38	160	198
	126	109	235
	220	1290	1510



Six is Open! - W2JWO

For all of you who have 6 meter rigs sitting in the closet, or better yet, have purchased HF plus 6 meter rigs, and never used the 6 meter position, now is the time to turn the selector switch.

Six meters, "the miracle band" is open. For most of us, the normal propagation on 6 is local, (maybe up to 150 miles), with occasional openings to the south, mid-west, and once in a while to the far west.

Here in Saratoga County, the band was open on June 9, 10, and 11, 2012 during the June ARRL VHF Contest. Here at WA2JWO, on the afternoon of Sunday, June 10, 17:00 to 19:00 (local time) solid contacts were made with eastern Canada and Europe.

Stations worked included: MW0ZZK, Wales; VO1DJT, New Foundland; GD0TEP, Isle of Man; GI6ATZ, Northern Ireland; EI2II, Galway, Ireland; EI4CF, Galway, Ireland; EI4KF, Ireland; and VE1FEK, Nova Scotia.

All contacts were 5 7 or better, and the station here is a Drake TR 6, only running about 150 Watts into an old 7 element yagi, 40 feet up, with too long a run of old coax.

Don't hesitate! Fire up anything you have on 6 meters, and have fun on the "miracle band".

CUL on 6 - 73 -- DENNIS WA2JWO



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June Meeting

The highlight of our June meeting, was the annual election for of the board members. You can see the summary of the results above. Sid Wolin stepped in to assume a seat on the board, which was previously vacated. Peter Miller, was unfortunately unable to run again as Secretary due to personal commitments which consume a great deal of his time.

We need you to step up and fill 2 vacancies we have, one for secretary, and one for newsletter editor.

We also discussed the issues we have at our Providence site for the .24 repeater and other equipment. We must physically move our equipment from the old tower to the new tower, and that will involve a considerable expenditure of funds. We are going to be looking for donations, as we may not have enough funds in the treasury to restore all our RF capabilities. We need to purchase a new equipment shelter, antennas, tower mounts, and feedlines. For various reasons, we cannot reuse our existing equipment from the old tower.