



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

General membership meeting - November 2012

Our speaker for the evening was Kathy Hayes, representing the ADA (American Diabetes Association). She spoke on the process of organizing the annual Tour De Cure for Saratoga, which for our club is a premier public service event.

The tour is held every June, and planning for it begins in August of the previous year. The logistics are formidable indeed. Every detail has to be reviewed from the previous year, and consideration is made to see what can be done better. The ham radio coordinator (Lee Palmer WB2NSC) is included in all planning.

Here are some facts:

There are 84 tours held throughout the country, of which Saratoga was the #3 fund raiser last year, raising over one million dollars. #2 was held in Colorado, and they grossed about \$100,000 more than Saratoga.

In 2000, there were 375 riders in our tour, but in 2012 we had more than 2,000 riders in Saratoga. Riders can be organized into team sponsored by a company or other group. Last year in Saratoga county, the Kivort Steel team was the top fund raiser with \$94,000 pledged.

10% of all riders actually have diabetes.

The ADA is very thankful for our participation, and she noted that not all the tours in the country actually utilize ham radio for communications.

We had 24 ham radio volunteers this year.

At the end of the presentation, Dave Atwell accepted for the club, a token of appreciation from the ADA.



November 2012 Board Meeting

A quick meeting. There were 2 business items. Dave Atwell requested funds to purchase a new echolink interface for the .36 repeater. The previous one was destroyed by lightning. Dave also announced that we need a new control operator for the echolink interface on .00 / .24. Rich, the existing operator has other commitments and requested to be replaced. Tim Kemp expressed an interest, but if anyone else is interested, please contact Dave Atwell (datwell@nycap.rr.com)

Next General Meeting

Dec. 10 7:30 PM

Please bring an unwrapped toy

FCC news

In the latest QST, I note several items of interest on the FCC docket.

NPMR 12-283 proposes to give lifetime credit for having passed various ham radio testing elements. What that means is once you pass it, you have it for life, even if your license expires. Now, if your license expires, so does your credit for passing tests. The applicant would have to "demonstrate that he or she formerly held a particular class of license".

In addition, the FCC is proposing to shorten the grace period to renew your license. Presently, you have a 2 year grace period. Also mentioned in the article is a proposal to reduce the number of VE's required to administer an exam.

Interesting !!

FCC News: Kansas Ham Issued \$10,000 Fine for Operation of Unlicensed Broadcast Station

On December 5, Glen Rubash, KCOGPV, of Dwight, Kansas, was issued a \$10,000 fine for what the FCC called "willfully and repeatedly" violating Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, by operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 88.3 MHz in Manhattan, Kansas.

In response to a complaint, agents from the FCC's Kansas City office used direction finding equipment techniques to locate the source of radio frequency transmissions on the frequency 88.3 MHz. According to a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* issued on December 6, agents found an FM transmitting antenna mounted on a pole next to a residence in Manhattan, Kansas on September 26, 2012.

The agents determined that the signals on 88.3 MHz exceeded the limits for operation under Part 15 and therefore required a license. The FCC noted that its records showed that no authorization was issued to Rubash or to anyone else for operation of an FM broadcast stations at or near this location.

Information from W2XM

**My dear friend Judy Corbett, widow of W2HFN, has asked for my help distributing Ed's ham equipment. Is there any interest in any of these items? Bob, W2XM
W2XM@ARRL.NET
(518) 459-8435**

1. I've never seen anything quite like this. It works near 30 MHz.

TERK Leapfrog LF-10S video sender/receiver
<http://www.bealecorner.com/trv900/TERK/index.html>

List price is \$180; yours for \$40.

2. PAL Antennas 4.5" Mag mount for car (no antenna); asking \$5

3. Multi-function CW keyer w/built-in monitor: LogiKey Co. model K-1; runs on 9-12 VDC - a steal at \$20

4. "Power-to-Go" Power Inverter 12 VDC to 110 VAC 300W continuous; 600W surge \$20

5. Ten Tec Hercules II 500W linear amplifier; used very little \$600

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/111>

6. VIZ VoltOhmyst digital multimeter type WD-750A; physical: 7.9 cm X 26.4 cm X 27.4 cm; 6 lbs \$60

Take a Break

December 8-9

- *ARRL 10 Meter Contest*
- AWA Bruce Kelly QSO Party--CW
- SKCC Weekend Sprintathon--CW
- Great Colorado Snowshoe Run--CW

December 15-16

- *ARRL Rookie Roundup--CW*
- NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint--CW (Dec 12)
- Russian 160 Meter Contest (Dec 14)
- Feld-Hell Happy Birthday Sprint
- Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint--CW

Upcoming Programs

Anticipated Upcoming Programs.

On December 10, we will have our annual social Christmas get together. Please bring a new toy to be donated to a needy child.

If you have any suggestions for the monthly programs, please contact a member of the board, or the editor at SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com



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Got News or information you would like to get published? How about your own projects or other things you think would be of interest to Club Members? How about (GASP), a letter to the editor? Contact us at our new email address :

SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

Nothing is on our schedule. This is a chance to stay warm and "snug as a bug" at home.