



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SCARA Club Meeting Announcement

Our annual election meeting will be held Monday June 10th at WEMS starting at 7:30. The Board meeting will be at 6:30, prior to the general meeting.

Please come and vote for next year's officers.

After the elections, we will discuss Field Day and our upcoming Hamfest in September. We most likely also discuss the status of the .24 repeater move to the new tower.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting. The existing Board members are: President Dave Atwell - N2FEP; Vice President - Darlene Lake - N2XQG; Secretary - Vacant; Treasurer - Jim Polewczak KG2H. Board Members are: Dave Bargovic - NR2J; Dennis Kagel - WA2JWO; Tim Kemp - N2MBX; and Sid Wolin - K2LJH.

Any nominations for any position will be accepted from the floor. We are desperately in need of a Secretary. If you would like to be our scribe, and take the meeting minutes we would you to join the team. If anyone would like to be considered for any position, please do not feel that the existing officers would be offended if they were to face an election, some would even enjoy it.

CQ de N2MBX - Field Day Announcement

FIELD DAY 2013

I am organizing this years Field Day to be held on June 22nd & 23rd at Wilton EMS Station on Jones Rd in Wilton.

Come join in on the fun.

The solar cycle is at it's peak (or one of it's peaks) that means that 15m, 10m and 6m will be active. We will begin set up on Friday June 21st at 2:00 pm and then begin operating on Saturday the 22nd at 2:00 pm.

We are going to try some different antennas again this year. We will run on emergency power and will also feature a station run on solar power.

So, we need Hams to help in the following areas:

1. Set up on Friday afternoon
2. Set up on Saturday morning
3. Operators for 24 hours from Sat 2:00 - Sun 2:00 pm
4. Take down Sunday afternoon
5. Chef's to feed the hungry (last year we had steaks for dinner)
6. Operations support throughout
7. Public Information support

As usual, we will experience a thunderstorm within minutes of the start, so come prepared for all weather.

Public Service Events this Spring

Tour De Cure - June 2, 2013

Lee Palmer fills us in with an initial assessment of the results, as follows:

Folks,

Without question we were the busiest we have ever been for a Tour de Cure. In years past by mid morning the radio chatter is getting light but this year it kept on well into the afternoon. I will pass along the final numbers when I get them but going into the event there were over 2,400 riders signed up. That is probably 500 more than last year!

Thanks to all. Thanks to the folks who were scheduled for one job and when you got to the school were asked you to go off on another detail! Thanks to those of you who staffed a rest stop and hung in there as the thunder, lightning, wind, and rain came and went. It speaks to the flexibility and dedication of the amateur radio community. This is hard work but it sure feels good!

As in other years we would like your feed back. Put your comments into two categories: 1. What can we do better or what worked better this year with communications. 2. What do we need to tell the tour organizers about so they can be made aware of an issue or problem (non-communications issues). I'll be attending a de-brief in a couple of weeks.

Regards, Lee – WB2NSC

Run Like a Mother

This is a 5K run which was done entirely on the grounds at the Saratoga Springs state park, Sunday May 12. The run is to benefit children who have lost a parent to cancer. This the first time we were invited to participate, and the following were our participating hams. Tom Early AC2IE; Tom Tracz N2SBC; Dave Oberhelman KC2ODL; Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP; Jim McKnight K2LM; Randy Stein KL7TJZ; Tim Kemp N2MBX; and Jim Polewczak KG2H

MS Walk a Thon

We did this MS Walk, but details have not been forwarded to the editor in time for the newsletter.

Swapfest March 9

For the benefit of all, Lee Hatfield had posted a youtube video of the swapfest, He would like us all to share in the enjoyment.

On Sat, Mar 23, 2013 at 7:24 PM, Lee Hatfield Jr <k2hat@ymail.com> wrote:

Hi Jim, - Good to see you all at the Swapfest, I had a Great time.

I made a Video from the photos I took at Ballston Spa Swapfest, and uploaded it to

Youtube. 😊

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6MZsIknT4w>

73 K2HAT Lee Hatfield Jr

Contests in June

ARRL June VHF Contest--Phone,CW,Digital, from Jun 8, 1800Z to Jun 10, 0300Z. Bands (MHz): 50+. Exchange: Grid square. Logs due: Jul 11

QRP ARCI QRP Shootout--Phone,CW, from Jun 15, 1500Z - See website. Multiple time periods. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. See website - CW on Saturday, SSB on Sunday. Exchange: RST, S/P/C, power or QRP ARCI number. Logs due: 14 days

SMIRK QSO Party--Phone,CW, from Jun 15, 0000Z to Jun 16, 2359Z. Bands (MHz): 50. Exchange: Grid square and member number. Logs due: Aug 1

ARRL Field Day - Saturday June 22 to Sunday June 23. See the article elsewhere in the news letter

ARES/RACES Section Meeting

The ENY ARES/RACES Section meeting was held on April 20, 2013 in Woodstock, NY. Representatives from numerous counties were present at the meeting. W2EMS and KC2YLM attended from Saratoga County ARES/RACES. Also present was Ken Getz, the NYS RACES Officer.

Topics discussed included Skywarn, Traffic and local nets, Training activities, Web supported record keeping and plans for future training/meetings.

The next District meeting will be held in the fall of 2013 in the Capital District in a location TBD.

Anyone interested in participating in ARES/RACES should contact:

Fred(W2EMS) at W2EMS@ARRL.net
Phil(KC2YLM) at KC2YLM@ARRL.net
Tim(N2MBX) at N2MBX@ARRL.net

Test Session June 8, 2013

The Warren County Radio Club will be holding a licensing exam on Saturday, June 8, at the Warren County Municipal Center. This is on Route 9, just south of Exit 20. The start time is 9:00 AM. Walk ins are allowed, so no pre-registration is required. The **contact:** is Jami K. Olden, (518) 623-2444
email: n2ztc@yahoo.com

Time to upgrade your license

So, you want to take an exam, perhaps to upgrade to a higher class license, or maybe you know someone who wants to become a new ham. You went to ARRL.ORG and followed the links to find a session convenient to you. Now what.

Most exam sessions do not require pre-registration, but if the listing that you're interested in does, call or email the listed team contact in order to get on the roster.

What do you need to bring with you? Two forms of ID. One can be your driver's license, and one can be your ham license. There are many different things that are valid. A library card is OK, even a piece of mail with your name and address on it is OK.

Bring a copy of your Ham License. It will have your FRN which you do need to have. When you pass the exam, the examiners will need to forward that copy to the ARRL with your form 605. If you passed a previous test that the FCC has not acted upon yet, (maybe you passed General last week, and now want to take Extra but you don't have your General license yet), bring your CSCE and a copy of that also.

Bring a pen and pencil. You need a pen to fill out the Form 605, and a pencil with a good eraser to fill out the bubble answer sheet,

Oh, and one last thing, bring the proper fee. At the present time, its \$15. A check is OK.

GOOD LUCK

On a personal note, we received this picture from my daughter Lisa, (the one who is not a ham)



Her email proudly exclaimed that this the very first picture of our first grandchild.

I don't know about you, but I think it's a case of poor photography!! The new arrival is due sometime in November.

Jim KG2H and Susan N2EKQ



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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

Announcement.

Due to personal considerations, my schedule is going to be disrupted . Unless someone wants to volunteer to do the newsletter, I will be switching to an irregular publication schedule of Sparks. I will continue to email important announcements on a regular basis. Jim KG2H

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

The next scheduled events are Rosie's Walk held in Galway, and an upcoming Boy Scout Jamoree. Details will be published as they become available