



# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## 28 th Annual HAMFEST

Join us this weekend on Saturday Sept 7, for our annual hamfest. We will have the usual assortment of commercial vendors, and hams selling in the flea market. General admission starts at 7 AM, and goes to ? Early bird setup begins Friday night at 6:30 until 8:00 PM

Enjoy the delicious choices for breakfast or lunch at the food booth. Take an exam at 9:30 (at the solar building) to upgrade you license class.

### June 10 Meetings

Board of Directors meeting.

A discussion was held on the status of the .24 repeater and auxiliary equipment move to the new tower. We still don't have a date from Paul Lent as to when we have to strip our equipment off of the old tower. The expense will be a very high, perhaps utilizing all our available funds. The board has decided that the NUMBER ONE priority is the .24 voice repeater and the UHF link to our 147.00 repeater. Other equipment such as beacons and packet will have to wait in a queue until funds are available.

We reviewed the successful walk a thons we have participated in this spring, Tour de Cure, Lions, Run Like a Mother, and the MS walk.

Discussions were had authorizing funding for Field day later in the month.

General Membership meeting.

The main purpose of the June meeting is to elect new officers for next year. The following individuals were nominated and elected:

President - Tim Kemp N2MBX

Vice President - Sid Wolin K2LJH

Secretary - no nominations - Position is Vacant

Treasurer - Jim Polewczak KG2H

Board Member - Dennis Kagel WA2JWO

Board Member - Dave Bargovic NR2J

Board Member - Peter Miller W2BEW

Board Member - Hal Post AK2E

Many thanks to the officers for stepping up to help the club. We also want to sincerely thank both Dave Atwell and Darlene Lake for their many YEARS of dedication to the club as President and Vice President respectively. We wish them a well deserved rest from their official duties.

The next general membership meeting will be held on Monday September 9, 2013. The primary topic of discussion is expected to be the results of the hamfest help on September 7



**PASSING THE GAVEL CERMONY**  
 Dave Atwell yields control over to the new president, Tim Kemp

**Field Day 2013**

Many of you reading this, will have attended for either operating or setup / tear down on June 21, 22, and 23 at the Wilton Emergency Squad Building. We had 25 members sign in, and additionally, a number of interested individuals, including some elected officials.

The bands were in good shape, and the rain (mostly) held off. Here is the QSO results by band and mode (with a comparison to last year). Hope to see you there next year, On June 28 and 29.

Band	cw	2013		Total	cw	2012	
		ph	Total			ph	Total
80	1	67	68	141	47	188	
40	203	93	296	237	54	291	
20	75	439	514		865	865	
15	19	63	82	21	25	46	
10	10	0	10	1	1	2	
6	1	9	10		4	4	
2	0	0	0		3	3	
GOTA		54			10		
Grand Total	309	725	1,034	400	1009	1409	

## ARES Report

The Northern District ARES meeting was held in Clifton Park on July 20th, 2013. Saratoga County was represented by W2EMS and KC2YLM. Topics discussed during the meeting included the increasing use of the online database, the Section wide traffic net which are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Even numbered months are scheduled on VHF, Odd numbered months are scheduled to have an HF net. HF nets starts on 3.993 + or -, and the VHF net is on 147.300 PL 114.8.

Dave KM2O stressed the importance of continuing efforts to increase public awareness and professionalism for ARES.

- Tom, KC2FCR from Rensselaer County is chairing a sub-committee on ID cards / credentialing . Phil (KC2YLM) will be the Saratoga County Representative on this committee.

- The yearly SET testing that takes place in October will be a District wide exercise this year.

- A lengthy discussion of HMesh and NBEMS was held. Anyone interested in digital modes and would like to work with this group should contact John Fritzie in Albany county.

Anyone interested in joining ARES should contact Fred(W2EMS), Phil(KC2YLM), or Tim(N2MBX).

## Boy Scouts Fall Camporee October 5<sup>th</sup> - Tim Kemp N2MBX

The Boy Scouts are going camping again. Not a big surprise, they go camping all the time. This time it is the Fall Camporee and it is a Council wide event. There are 8 Districts in the Twin Rivers Council, so for this Camporee, there will be over 1000 Scouts in attendance. Once again I am going portable with my station to expose as many Scouts to Amateur Radio as possible. I am a Radio Merit Badge Counselor and I often feel like the Maytag Repairman, no one calls me about the Merit Badge. To create interest, I will be setting up several stations to operate and hand out information about the Radio Merit Badge. I am going to need some help doing this. During the Fall Camporee, the Scouts travel around camp exploring the venues set up regarding different activities. Radio will be one of the venues. My plan is to have 3 stations, 2 on HF and one on 2m. I have a shelter, generators, solar collectors, batteries, one HF antenna, one HF radio, one 2m radio, tables, chairs and handout material. But I will need help.

The Camporee will be held on Friday evening October 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday morning October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fulton County Airport. The time period the Radio venue should be open is between 9:00am and 4:00pm on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be camping out on Friday night to set up the shelter and tables, but everyone else could just show up Saturday morning.

Please volunteer to demonstrate the excitement of Ham Radio to our youth. Contact me at [N2MBX@ARRL.net](mailto:N2MBX@ARRL.net) .

## Taking an exam at the September Hamfest

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 address on it is OK.

Bring a copy of your Ham License. When you pass the exam, the examiners will need to forward that 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.

## President's Message September 2013 - Tim Kemp N2MBX

Looks like Summer is coming to a close faster than expected. I am rushing to get things done while the weather is good. The new vertical antenna, a GAP Titan, which we used on Field Day, still sits in the garage. My plan is to have it up in the backyard before the ground is frozen. Thanks to Steve WA2TTP the antenna worked well at Field Day. Without his help it just would not have been possible. We found out many things building that antenna. One: the GAP Titan is not really a portable antenna, thus it will be retired to my backyard for permanent duty at my station. Two: it is more fun to build antennas or anything else with other Hams.

If you have a radio project that needs help to be completed, let some of your fellow Hams know. Help is there for the asking. Everyone one of us has some special talent that we enjoy sharing with others. And we all have areas where we need extra help, so it is the perfect situation, all we have to do is get connect to the right talent. This newsletter is the perfect forum to make that connection. Don't be shy, send a short article to the newsletter editor and ask for help.

I hope to see all of you Club Members at the upcoming events and meetings. We are always looking for ideas for presentations at the club meetings. I will have a few presentations from my adventures this Summer. I hope you take the time to share your radio projects with the group.



## Officers

### President

Tim Kemp—N2MBX  
39 Hemlock Drive  
Greenfield Center, NY  
12833  
tkemp@nycap.rr.com

### Directors:

Dave Bargovic—NR2J  
676 East Line Road  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
sardelta@aol.com

### Vice President:

Sid Wolin—K2LJH  
111 Beaver St  
Schuylerville, NY 12781  
K2LJH@arrl.org

Dennis Kagel—WA2JWO  
147 Hayes Road  
Schuylerville, NY 12871-  
1836  
kadell@mybluelight.com

### Secretary:

Vacant

Hal Post—AK2E

PO Box: 25  
Middle Grove, NY 12850  
AK2E@arrl.org

### Treasurer:

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

Peter Miller—W2BEW  
PO Box 353; 3131 Route  
9N

Greenfield Center, NY  
12833

### Radio Officer:

Dave Atwell

petermil@verizon.net

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](mailto:SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com)**

### Announcement.

Due to personal considerations (I'm in the process of moving), 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 Camporee. Details will be published as they become available