



# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## Feb 10, 2014 meeting.

This was a show and tell meeting for members to highlight projects they have been working on. We had 6 members talk with us that evening.

Art, NR2T, brought in a 12 meter antenna he built using plumbing supplies from the local hardware store.

Tom, AC2IE, showed us his homebuilt interface connecting his DSTAR hand held, to a Raspberry Pi PC board, which also connected to his cell phone to create an ad hoc hotspot to connect to reflectors on the internet.

Brian, NJ1F, spoke a little about the World Radio Team effort, ( wrtc2014.org ) and showed his home built triplexer to allow up to 3 radios to operated simultaneously on a single triband antenna. He expects to have it available to us for field day.

Peter, W2BEW, brought in his 30 pound home build powersupply.

Tim, N2MBX, showed us his portable vertical antenna for camping expeditions. His setup included a homebrew elevation apparatus.

Jim, KG2H, showed us his kit built Sierra QRP radio with plug in modules to switch bands. It is designed to output 3 watts, and run from a battery for portable trail use.

It was a fun night, if you could not make it, you missed another good meeting.

See the pictures on the next page.

Arpil's club meeting will be held on April 14. Speaker for the evening will be Kathy from the ADA (American Diabetes Assn), speaking about the upcoming Tour de Cure on June 1, and the results of last year's Toure de Cure.;





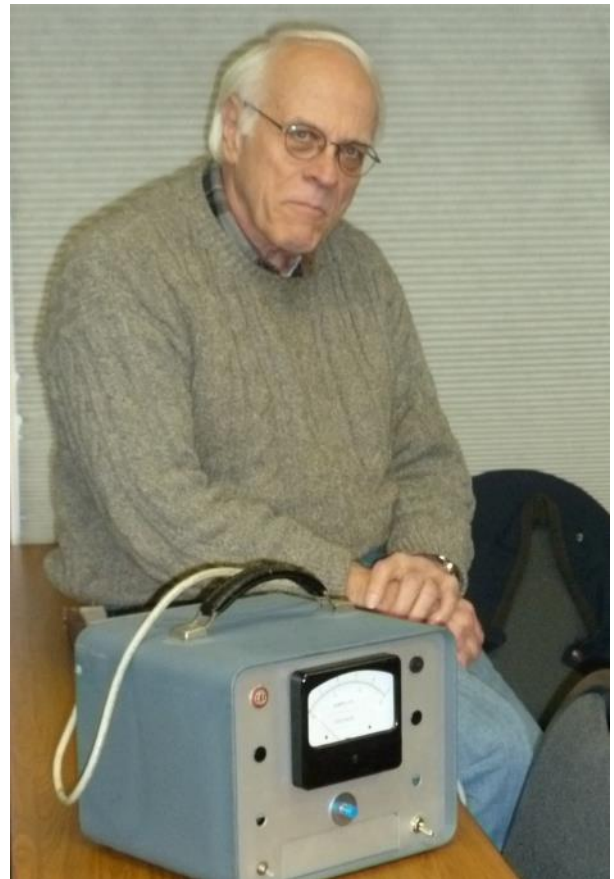
NR2T Tells us about his home brew 12 meter antenna



NJ1F shows off a nifty Triplexer



AC2IE and the Raspberry Pi



W2BEW and the 30 LB Gorilla

## N2MBX and Portable Vertical Antenna Mount



KG2H and QRP kit radio

### Feb 10, 2014 Board of Directors meeting.

Voted to spend up to \$300, for new narrow filters for the club's TS440. These would include narrow filters for both voice and CW. Frank Frisone would install them.

Hamfest is slated for Sunday Sept 7, as the fairground had a scheduling conflict for our normal Saturday date. We need to create a flyer for the hamfest, and set up a VE session with ARRL. Also need to remember to get the license for the food booth.

Upcoming events: Lions Club Walk in May (Memorial Day weekend), Tour de Cure June 1, Field Day, June 28, and 29, Rosie's Walk in Galway - September, Tow Path Du-athalon - October.





## Swapfest—March 8, 2014

On March 8, we had our annual Swapfest at the Cooperative Extension building in Ballston Spa. It was very well attended, and a lot of us had eyeball QSO's, swapped operating stories, and in general, had a great time.

Our doorprize of a Baofeng UV5 was claimed by Dan Gealt, WX2P. The 50 /50 made Tom Early's (AC2IE) pockets bulge a lot as he walked out the door. Why don't you make plans on coming out next March. Hope to see you there.



## Test Session 3-8-2014

After the annual swapfest, we held our VE Test Session. We had 9 successful candidates. Congratulations to brand new Tech Class licensees, KD2FWC (Nick Williams), KD2FWD (Andy Macfie), KD2FWE (Greg Fox), KD2FWF (Bob Albright). We had one brand new general, KD2FWG (Joe Greenbaum).

Upgrading to General Class were KD2DRN, K2ZIP, and KD2FKI. Rounding out the successful candidates was KD2EHG who upgraded to Extra Class.

Our willing and able VE team included KA2QYE, N2FEP, K2LM, W2XP, KG2VBA, N2VU, NT2B and KG2H.



The club's next scheduled test session will be on the date of our annual Hamfest, September 7, 2014. It will be held in the room at the Cooperative Extension building, 50 West High Street. Please plan on upgrading then.

## President's Message April 2014 - Tim Kemp N2MBX

Spring arrived this past week, you wouldn't know by looking in my backyard. Time to get ready for the upcoming Public Service events. At this month's meeting we will review our biggest event, the Tour de Cure. Our Club is an instrumental part of this hugely successful event. Please plan on attending the meeting and the event.

It was great seeing everyone at the Swapfest, and thank you to all the people paying their dues at the Swapfest. If you haven't paid your dues, bring it to the April meeting. SCARA relies on the dues income to keep our repeaters on the air, allows us to participate in Field Day and many other activities. SCARA is facing some big bills as we move our 147.00 repeater onto the new Public Service Communications Tower at the Providence site.

SCARA elections are also on the horizon, June meeting. We need a Vice President, Newsletter Editor and a Secretary this year. When elections come around in June, please consider filling one of the Board positions. I know that I will run for President again, but my plans call for not making it to all the meetings in 2015, so we will need to fill the Vice President position.

## April General Membership Meeting 4-14-2014 - Tim Kemp N2MBX

The April meeting program will be "Getting Ready for Tour de Cure 2014" by Lee Palmer WB2NSC and Kathy (Tour de Cure Organizer). There will be a Power Point presentation as well as discussions of what worked last year and what needs to change for this year.

The Tour this year will be held on Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Tour organizers rely heavily on Ham Radio to make the event run smoothly. So once again we need to turn out in force on the day of the event. This is a great opportunity for all new Hams to get their feet wet working on a public service event. No special equipment is necessary, a 2 meter rig would be nice, but is not necessary to be involved. The learning potential is sky high for Hams just getting started. I hope to see everyone at the event.

Plan now to make the meeting at 7:30 pm, Monday 4-14 at the Wilton EMS Station.

## Sneak Preview—May meeting

On May 12, David Galletly KM2O will give a presentation on "Developing Emergency Communications Technologies for Amateur Radio". He will touch on some useful new EMCOMM tools such as Broadband Hamnet (formerly HSMM-MESH), NBEMS, Radio PBX and dispatch systems. The Broadband Hamnet portion will include a "101" tutorial on setting up and using this technology. A working MESH network will be set up. Bring any nodes you may have built to show as well.

David is ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator for the Eastern New York Section, a certified Field Instructor for the ARRL's EC-001 EMCOMM course and President of the Albany Amateur Radio Association.

## Upcoming exam sessions:

Don't say that you want to upgrade, but don't know when the exams are given. Here's some of the local ones:

April 16, May 21, and June 18 at 5:30 PM - Johnstown- location Fulton County EOC - Contact Don Gifford 752-9226 or WA2EZ@live.com

## More Pictures of the Swapfest

Swapfest pictures on YouTube courtesy of Lee Hatfield, K2HAT

<http://youtu.be/NtI6ibjfTh0>

## Upcoming program note

April 14 meeting. Speaker for the evening will be Kathy from the ADA.  
May 12 meeting. Speaker will be Dave Galletly talking about MESH.  
June 9 meeting, Club Elections, Emergency communications, and Field Day.



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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 email address :

**SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com**

## UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

The next FIRM date we have for a public service event is the ADA Tour de Cure, on June 1.

As more of the traditional Spring Public Service get firmed up, we will be sending out email reminders.