



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

General Membership meeting - October 13, 2014

Before the guest speaker for the evening, Tim N2MBX, presented to Bill Proctor KC2NXC a certificate of appreciation from the Boy Scouts, recognizing his assistance in presenting material to a scout group going for their Radio Merit Badges. Tim and Bill spent considerable time helping those scouts learn about the history of radio.

John Fritze K2QY spoke to us about NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System). It is an open source suite of programs for both digital communications protocols and also create the message forms in the needed format for the particular emergency situation. It is based on the FLDIGI communications that many hams already use for digital communications every day. John presented a very nice slide show, and if you missed it, you can get more information about NBEMS from the website W1HKJ.COM

Board of Directors meeting 10-13-2014

KG2H gave treasurer's report Repeaters. All working nominally. No changes on the status of the .24 site move. The communications shelter we hope to get for the .24 site is still on top of Gore Mountain. Brian NJ1F has obtained a tower setup used in the last WTRC competition Hamfest set for Sunday Sept 13, 2015. We must get more volunteers for the day, especially for the food booth. Areas needing coverage for the hamfest are food booth, gate, talk in, test session, publicity. Swapfest set for Saturday March 14, 2015 Field Day is June 26 - 28 2015 Discussion of possible meeting topics. K2AYQ - history of Television. December holiday meeting, W2XM antenna in April? Need membership input for suggestions.



Above, N2MBX presents a certification of appreciation to KC2NXC for his Boy Scouts work.

Left, John Fritze gives a presentation to our club on NBEMS.

President's Message November 2014 - Tim Kemp N2MBX

Only 2 months to go in 2014. Plan ahead to attend the last SCARA meetings in 2014. November 10th features Wayne K2AYQ talking about his experience in broadcast television. December 8th will be the holiday gathering, an evening of Ham Radio fellowship and food. The important part of the December meeting is bringing a toy to be donated to charity.

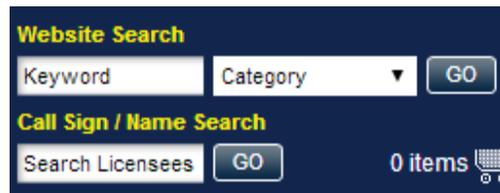
Our club is doing okay financially, but it would be doing better if everyone paid their dues. Dues are only \$10 per year. If you can't remember paying your dues recently, send a check to the treasurer, Jim KG2H, and he will add the amount to your name on the list. The worst that could happen is that you will over pay and end up with credit for years ahead.

The Hamfest was a big success in raising funds for our club again this year. That is good because that is one of the main reasons Hamfests are sponsored by any club. The cost for admission was called into question again this year. I say that the cost for admission to any Hamfest is insignificant in the bigger picture of Amateur Radio. It is without a doubt the cheapest thing I do every year with the hobby. I understand that many Hams are cheap, but supporting the local clubs that sponsor Hamfests are an important way to keep our repeaters and other infrastructure operating. That is why I go to all the local Hamfests I can and always come hungry and buy the food and also buy the raffle tickets. In the big scheme of things it is just not that much money.

Quite a few years ago I belonged to an organization that ran a project that raised funds for a charity. It involved standing in front of Price Chopper with a can collecting money for the charity. During the hours I stood there, hundreds of people passed through the door. Most of the people intentionally ignored me. Some gave coins, some gave more, but it gave me a chance to study humanity. At the end of the event I was able to calculate what my time was worth and the result wasn't much. I also figured that if I gave a dollar to everyone that I passed by that was collecting for a legitimate cause, over the course of a year it would be nearly impossible to hand out \$30. So from that point on, every time I pass a coin drop, every time I pass someone ringing a bell, every time I pass someone spending their time raising money for a worthy cause, I acknowledge their presence and give them something. I hope you do the same. It doesn't just apply to the upcoming holiday season.

73s
Tim

Have you checked the expiration date on your license? It's very easy to do. One way to do it is to go to WWW.ARRL.ORG, and just fill in you call sign in the search box. You do not need to be a member.



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New repeater linked into the SCARA system Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP

The WA2TTP repeater was recently upgraded to a Motorola MSF5000 station also a new controller and link radio was incorporated into the project. This allows the repeater to be linked into the SARC 147.00 and 147.24 repeaters via the 448.225 repeater. WA2TTP/R is located in Schoharie on Cotton Hill Ridge overlooking the Schoharie valley, Middleburgh and beyond. Coverage is good into Saratoga County up to the Saratoga Springs area. The repeater is on 448.925 minus 5 offset and PL 107.2 Hz. Please feel free to try it out and email any comments to srosenb2@nycap.rr.com or catch me on the air.

I would like to thank the follow people. Jim K2LM for his help and expertise in getting the repeater up there and fine tuning the audio levels which he does so well. Also Frank KA2QYE for providing and programming the link radios. Mike WA2DWP for helping move the old repeater out and new one in and for his financial support. The site owner, who operates a Christian radio network in the area, and provides me with tower space and space in the very small transmitter building for the repeater.

The FM station at the site is WMYY 97.3. The link below goes to a coverage map of WMYY which should give a rough indication of my coverage minus a de-rate for 1000 vs 75 watts and VHF vs UHF.
http://aliveradionetwork.com/alive_radio_wmyy.html

ARES Report Phil Weissman KC2YLM

SET is a HUGE success -The Simulated Emergency Test was held on Saturday October 11th. Phil, KC2YLM, was this year's Net Control station. More than 20 different hams operated for 2 hours, accumulating more than 600 points for this event. This was more than double the points of last year's event. Saratoga County had the largest improvement in score for the Eastern New York section. We would like to thank the following hams for participating this year: NR2T, AC2IE, K2LM, W2BEW, N2MBX, N2SQQ, KD2HDD, WB2NSC, AK2E, K2AYQ, KC2SMB, N2FEP, KB1AVL, KD2FWG, KC2SDS, N2PEQ, K2ALS, K2HAT, N2WDY. Next year's event is scheduled for October 3rd, 2015. Mark this date in your calendars. You do not need to be a registered ARES member to participate.

ENY Section meeting - Fred, W2EMS, attended the fall ENY section meeting in Goshen, NY. Topics discussed included a wrapup of Saturday's set exercise. Also discussed were the district emergency plan, the joint ARES/MARS exercise. Work continues on the digital backbone for the section. The next ENY section meeting will be held in April of 2015 in Woodstock.

Anyone interested in joining ARES can contact Fred (W2EMS@arrl.org), Tim (N2MBX@arrl.org), or Phil (KC2YLM@arrl.org)

November 10, 2014 meeting at the Wilton EMS squad building on Jones Road.

General Meeting at 7:30, preceded by a board of directors meeting at 6:30.

The speaker will be Wayne, K2AYQ. His discussion will be "Notes and Recollections on the Technical History of Channel 13, and Television's early history in the Capital District." He will go into the various steps that took place as the uhf stations changed over to vhf and the technical advances leading to the changeover to digital stations from the early 1950s to 2013. He has a small collection of photos of channel 13 transmitter sites on Spruce and Bald mountains and the new CRB site in the Heldebergs. He will also have some show and tell items that may interest our club members.

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

That's about the end of the Public Service for the year, not a lot of running, walking or bike riding going on in the SNOW !!!

Who is this ham?

This gentleman showed up at the October club meeting, but I didn't get his name or callsign. He is a real quiet guy. If anyone know who his is, I would love to get him on the club's mailing list.



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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 program note

November 10, 7:30 PM Wayne, K2AYQ, will present Notes and Recollections on the Technical History of Channel 13 and Television's early history in the capital district

(programs subject to change)