

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## February Meeting - Feb 11, 2019 \_jim KG2h

Our January meeting started out with a few announcements. On March 30 and 31 there will be a Technician Class course, with exam session being held on the second day, Sunday 3/31. It is being held in the Queenbury area. For detailed information, please contact Frank KA5VVI at [fgitto@email.com](mailto:fgitto@email.com).

Fred W5BN had a few comments about interfacing between Ham Radio Delux, and the WSTJ-X program.

Our primary speaker for the evening was WA2FON Marc Gorsage. Marc spoke extensively about the SOTA (Summits On The Air) program. This is an activity started in 2002 in Great Britain, and has spread throughout the world. Individuals take their equipment to mountaintops that have been designated by the organizers of the program at [SOTAWATCH.ORG](http://SOTAWATCH.ORG). The gear must be manually packed in a certain distance from the top of the mountain, and then operated. Driving a motor vehicle all the way to the top is not permitted.

Marc also participated in the ARRL's NPOA program last year, which was a similar type of program, but operating from a National Park represents different challenges. He also mentioned several other programs of a similar nature, including the fictitious PTOA (Picnic Tables on the Air)

He brought in his personal gear to pass around including his KX3, various antennae, and batteries he uses in the SOTA challenge. It was a fun evening.



It's almost time for the annual  
**SwapFest**

hosted by Saratoga County Amateur Radio Assn

**March 9, 2019**

Cooperative Extension Building (aka Solar Bldg), 50 West High Street (Rt 67w) in Ballston Spa, 12020.

Doors open at 8 am. Free admission.

VE test session for new licensees and upgrades at Noon in the same facility. Contact Jim, KG2H, (kg2h@arrl.net) for further details on the testing.

**Eyeball QSOs - Out of the box and on the table!**

We've held this event for many years, and after a long winter stuck in the hamshack, many hams see this as their first chance to get out of the house and have some radio fun. We always have a good crowd, and there's plenty of used gear to look over.



P.S. This is a good time to join the Saratoga Club, or renew your dues too.

## Upcoming Meetings

March 9, 2109: Our Annual Swapfest at Cooperative Extension Building, Ballston Spa. Doors open 8 AM and the Swapfest will run until 11 AM. The room will then be cleared, and set up for the Exam Session which will commence at Noon. Please see another article in this newsletter giving information as to what to bring.

April 8: The Tour de Cure's Nicole DeCelle will talk about the Tour and then the club will review how Tour and Field Day.

## March 9, 2019 Test Session at Cooperative Extension Building 50 West High Street Ballston Spa, 12 PM (noon)

If you are going to take a test session for either a new or upgraded ham license, here are a few things you **MUST** bring along.

A copy of your current FCC license. We need to attach the license copy to the paperwork when you upgrade. If you are unlicensed, you have a few options. The FCC form 605 requires either a FRN or a SSN. You can obtain a FRN in just a few minutes before the exam session by visiting <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/systems-utilities/universal-licensing-system> You simply apply for the FRN on line, and you will have it with you when you come to the test session.

Another form of ID, a driver's license is great, or any other form of ID. If you don't have a driver's license, (perhaps you are too young for the DMV) the ARRL suggests something as simple as a library card, or even a piece of mail addressed to you at your residence.

A pen and pencil (with a good eraser). The pen is for filling out the FCC form 605, and the pencil is to fill out the bubble answer sheet.

The proper testing fee. Currently it is \$15.

Your WITS. It is not a hard exam, so don't get too anxious about it.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the exam start time in order to fill out the paperwork, and for the VE's (Volunteer Examiners) to review it.

Another thing to bear in mind, is that for many of the testing sessions, the VE team will have alternate versions of the various exam elements available for you to try a retake of the exam. If you do desire to take an alternate version, we must charge you an additional testing fee.

If you **DO NOT NEED** to take any alternate versions, you may take the next higher level of exam for **NO** additional costs. For example, if you take and pass the Technician exam, you may take the General exam if you so desire, and there will be no additional fees. I have witnessed a few people who have come into the session unlicensed, and walk away with the Extra Class license.

GOOD LUCK.

## The Toy Exchange March 2019

In November the Board of Directors wanted to institute a newsletter "item for sale" column for club members who want to sell a piece of Ham Radio equipment they own. So, we will give it a trial run over the next several months. Here are the tentative rules:

This is for club members to sell personal items they own. It is not a forum for you to run a business. Send a description of the item which may or may not include a price. It is imperative for you to have a method for a potential buyer to contact you. (Perhaps via email?). The club and / or the newsletter WILL NOT be involved as a contact or negotiator, this is your responsibility.

If you send a picture of the item, the picture may or may not be published depending upon conditions of the picture, space in the newsletter, or other unspecified condition.

Send your copy to [SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com](mailto:SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com). Allow it to arrive at least 2 weeks before the scheduled club meeting. Your copy will be cut and pasted into the newsletter, no corrections will be edited, so check you spelling.

Ultimately the issue of the whether the item is published is subject to the discretion of the newsletter editor.

These rules are subject to change.

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No new listings this month. Come to the our swapfest on March 9 to see a bunch of toys in person. The location is the Cooperative Extension Building, 50 West High Street, Ballston Spa. Doors open at 8:00 AM, and runs to 11:00 AM

## FCC planning to mandate all Licensees to have FRN; FCC Registration Number

Upstate NY Ham Radio News and Information Posted: 15 Feb 2019 05:43 PM PST

The FCC has recently notified VEC's of upcoming Commission Registration System (CORES) changes and its impact to new radio operators. In the near future the FCC will require all FCC Registrants to establish an FCC account containing an FCC Username (a valid email address), which will be linked to their FCC Registration Number (FRN). In the past, use of a licensees Social Security number was allowed instead of the FRN. This will also affect amateurs upgrading or renewing their license.



## ARRL Headquarters Seeks Radiosport and Field Services Manager

ARRL Newsletter 2/19/2019

ARRL is accepting applications for the position of Radiosport and Field Services Manager at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. This is a full-time, exempt position with a competitive salary. The successful candidate would be responsible for managing the Radiosport and Field Services functions, including employee training and program and program and services delivery to members and field volunteers.

This individual works in conjunction with executive officers to establish annual operational plans, revenue forecasts, and budgets for the department and manages to those goals; manages Logbook of The World (LoTW) operations, including staff supervision, analysis of user issues, and problem resolution; serves as liaison with the ARRL Field Organization, including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS); oversees the election and appointment of Section Managers and other official ARRL field volunteers, and directs ARRL's emergency preparedness and response activities.

For full requirements and additional details, [see](#) the Employment Opportunities listing.

### Membership Renewal Jim KG2H

Thanks to the following: WA2JWO, W1LJF, KD2LJP, and KD2RFG. Welcome to the new members, Tina Denny (KD2RFP) and Gary Denny (KD2LJP). We appreciate your support.

Our dues year is the calendar year. I'm collecting dues for the 2019 year (and beyond if you so desire). If you are unsure of your status, you can contact me at [KG2H@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG2H@ARRL.NET). You can cut out the form below and

### **Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association      Membership Information**

**Please Print CLEARLY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class    N    T    G    A    E

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

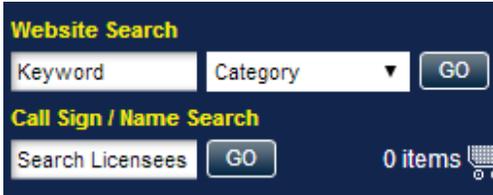
City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member      YES      NO

**Dues are \$10 per year, Payable to Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.**

You can mail your dues with this form to Jim Polewczak KG2H, 231 Northline Road, Ballston Spa 12020

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](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG), and just fill in your call sign in the search box on their home page. You do not need to be a member of ARRL to use this service.



K2DLL repeater system:

Corinth NY  
147.000 MHz +600KHz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode  
448.225 MHz -5.00 MHz 91.5 CTCSS encode/decode

Providence NY  
147.240 MHz +600 Hz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode.  
147.360 MHz +600 Hz (add 91.5 Hz CTCSS to connect to the NYS Network

Sacandaga Reservoir  
147.03 MHz +600 KHz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode

Middleburgh NY  
448.925 PL 107.2 WA2TTP-R Steve's Repeater is linked to ours via UHF



## Officers

### **President**

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### **Directors:**

Please be sure to visit our webpage for any late breaking news or newsletter archives.

[WWW.K2DLL.ORG](http://WWW.K2DLL.ORG)

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](mailto:SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com)

## Upcoming program note

We are looking for input from the membership as to what YOU would like to hear. Program suggestions are always welcome. Please let any of the Board Members know of you ideas.

Thanks