

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Wanted: A Few Good Hams

To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy:

Ask not what your club and do for you, but what you can do for your club.

June 10th is our Annual Meeting for the club. The most important piece of business is the election of officers and directors for next year. We have 4 officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, there are 4 at-large director positions to fill. These 4 directors provide wisdom, guidance, and suggestions that lead the club.

We really need interested and involved hams to step up and fill the roles which will lead the club in the new year. Some of the existing board members would be happy to step aside and let new blood sway the direction of the club. In another case, one of the existing board members is unable to run next year.

I am putting together a slate of candidates for be nominated for election. If you are interested, please contact me, Jim KG2H at KG2H@arrl.net I can answer any questions you might have concerning this.

At the June meeting I will be offering a the slate of candidates of which I am aware, but any floor nominations, meeting the proper criteria, can be entered into the elections.

Thanks, we really do need your help.

Field Day June 22 and 23

Its Field Day time again. Our club will once again be operating from our public location at the Wilton EMS building. This location has lots of public visibility and great facilities. We need our members to come for operations, setup and teardown, and administrative duty (food service, publicity, computer networking and paperwork fall immediately to mind).

Peter, W2BEW, is looking for people to commit to working the event. He needs this in order to plan the general outline which we will utilize this year. We don't expect that you will be at the site for 24 hours, a couple of hours will be great.

East Greenbush Hamfest this weekend Saturday May 11

The 16th annual Hamfest of the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association is this Saturday, May 11th. The location is the East Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department, 68 Phillips Road, Rensselaer, NY.

The forecast is for Partly Sunny and temps in the mid to upper 60s!

Come on out and enjoy a break in the weather, see some old friends and make some new ones, grab (or sell) some gear, have some good food -- and enjoy door prizes and raffles worth over \$2,200!

Don't forget, the Grand Prize is a brand new Yaesu FT-891 HF/6 meter rig!

Gate opens at 8 am and the Hamfest runs until 1 pm. Tailgating is free with admission, so spread the word!

Find more info and directions here: <https://www.egara.club/events>

Hams Help Trace "Mystery" Signal Disrupting Keyless Entry Devices in Ohio

Courtesy ARRL 5/7/2019

A **recent article** in *The New York Times* reported that many garage door openers and keyless vehicle entry fobs in an Ohio town near Cleveland mysteriously stopped working. While the article invoked *The X-Files* and hinted initially that a NASA research center somehow could be involved, the cause was not so much mystifying as arcane.

"Garage door repair people, local ham radio enthusiasts, and other volunteer investigators descended on the neighborhood with various meters," the May 4 article by Heather Murphy recounted. "Everyone agreed that something powerful was interfering with the radio frequency that many fobs rely on, but no one could identify the source."

More than a dozen residents reported intermittent issues getting their key fobs and garage door openers to operate, and most lived within a few blocks of each other. At one point, the local power utility started shutting off power to areas where the strongest RF signal was detected, but the signal persisted. Dan Dalessandro, WB8ZQH, a TV repairer, was among several hams who investigated. He initially picked up "little blips" on a signal detector, but finally, on one block and at a particular house, the signal was quite loud.

"The source of the problem was a homebrew, battery-operated device designed by a local resident to alert him if someone was upstairs when he was working in his basement," the *Times* reported. "It did so by turning off a light." The individual, who, the article said, has special needs, was not identified for privacy concerns. The inventor, who had no malicious intent, had no inkling that his device was wreaking havoc on the neighborhood until a North Olmstead City Council member and a volunteer knocked on his door. The device operated on 315 MHz, the frequency many keyless-entry devices use under FCC Part 15 rules. The device's battery was removed, the signal stopped, and all who were involved breathed sighs of relief.

Speaking of Hamfests

The previous article about the East Greenbush hamfest should have whetted your appetite for the Hamfest Season. The following article is about the Dayton hamfest coming up in a few weeks, May 17 to 19.

I have never made it to Dayton personally, however some year soon I hope to go. I have a wonderful excuse (I think), since it always seems to fall right around the KG2H / N2EKQ wedding anniversary on May 18. Now that we have some time on our hands, it could be a nice trip, combining it with some side adventures on the way back.

Dayton Hamvention Again Providing Information Radio Station on 1620 AM

Courtesy ARRL 5/7/2019

Dayton Hamvention® will provide an Information Radio Station at 1620 kHz on the AM band to help ease the trip for inbound attendees. The low-power station will offer traffic, weather, parking, and event information to motorists as they approach Xenia, which is bracing to handle an influx of nearly 30,000 visitors — roughly doubling the city's population for the weekend. Hamvention will host ARRL's 2019 National Convention.

Due to the web of two-lane roads that serves the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, a shuttle-bus operation will be in place to alleviate traffic congestion. The 1620 AM signal will blanket Xenia and be audible in surrounding Greene and Montgomery counties, directing approaching attendees to special parking facilities.

The service is being provided to Dayton Hamvention by **Information Station Specialists** of Zeeland, Michigan, which this year will utilize a newly designed, high-efficiency/high-capacity antenna. The transmitter and antenna system will be on display during Dayton Hamvention at Booth 6503.



W5LFL, First Ham in Space SK

Courtesy CQ Magazine

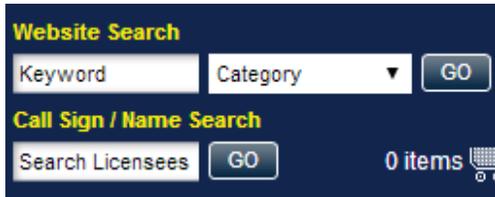
Former astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, the first person to operate an amateur radio station from space, has become a Silent Key at age 88. He died April 15 at his home in Huntsville, Alabama.

Garriott held a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford University, where he also taught before joining NASA in 1965 as a scientist-astronaut. According to NASA, he authored or co-authored more than 40 scientific papers and one book on ionospheric physics.

Garriott's first trip to space was aboard Skylab 3 in 1973, where he and crewmates Alan Bean and Jack Lousma spent nearly two months, at that point the longest single-mission spaceflight on record. He returned to space in 1983 aboard the shuttle Columbia, a 10-day science mission known as STS-9/Spacelab-1. During this flight, Garriott thrilled hams around the world by operating a 2-meter handheld and making contacts during his free time. (This writer recalls hearing him calling "CQ North America, this is W5LFL on the Space Shuttle Columbia calling CQ and listening.")

Garriott's operation paved the way for ongoing amateur operations from orbit, including the long-running Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. He was inducted into the inaugural class of the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2001.

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 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



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

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

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