

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## Board Meeting – Jan 13, 2020

Present – W2BEW, KG2H, NJ1F, WA2TTP, W5BN, WA2JWO, K2ZIP

Hamfest is Aug 15, 2020. Peter spoke with the fairgrounds staff, and the date of the Irishfest was snapped up by some other organization. The food booth is not likely to be manned by the Mindenbauer family, so we will ask the fairgrounds people to recommend some food trucks for us to contact. (*ed note: see update on page 2 of this newsletter*)

Discussions were held about future meeting program topics. Some suggestions were:

- Having Ria, our division director address the meeting via Skype (February)
- Swapfest (March)
- Skywarn training (April ?)
- ADA people – prep for tour de cure (May?)
- FD Prep, including an overview of the logging programs N1MM and N3FJP (June?)
- My Favorite antenna
- Remote operations for the hamshack
- DMR and other similar technologies
- Raspberry Pi
- Winlink

We will be back meeting at the fire training center next month, Code blue is in it's permanent home off site, and renovation work at the fire training center will be complete before then.

A discussion was held on the .36 repeater. K2LM said there was some issue, but since he was not present, we were unsure of the topic he wished to discuss. Is it possibly the building housing the repeater?

The Office of Emergency Services is looking a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Frank Frissone asked for a listing of the Public Service events the club has participated in during the last year.

Treasurer's report given and accepted.

Fred (W2EMS) and Frank (KAQYE) attended an exploratory meeting for a multi-agency emergency coordination effort between Schenectady, Saratoga, and Warren counties. Nothing to report other than it was well attended, since it was only the first meeting of its kind.

Jim KG2H will look into what it will take for the club to accept ARRL membership renewals for our members.

## General meeting Jan 13, 2020

A video of the Rodrigues DXpedition in 2004. The video explored the preparation, setup, operation, and teardown of the DXpedition.

## Hamfest and Swapfest

News on the hamfest front. The Board of Directors had deep and protracted discussions about the date of the hamfest. A new date was proposed, but in the end we decided to keep our original date of the Sunday after Labor Day. The problem of competition from the Boxboro hamfest has been alleviated because they have changed their date to July. (I guess we were a drag on them HIHI.)

This year's date will be Sunday, September 13. Mark your calendars now. We will be needing you to help us out with volunteering for duties at the hamfest. We need your help with things like contacting vendors in advance, publicity, gate work, club booth work, and maybe the food booth. The food booth arrangement is still up in the air. The VE exam session will be held at 8:30 in the cooperative extension building.

Also, this is a reminder that the Swapfest will be held on Saturday March 14, at the cooperative extension building. The doors will open around 7:30, and there will be an exam session at noon.

## Test Session requirement

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, the FCC form 605 requires a FRN. 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.

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association  
presents our **35th** annual

# HAMFEST 2020

**SUNDAY, Sept 13: Gates open at 7:00 am**

Saratoga County Fair Grounds, 162 Prospect St, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Only \$6 per person includes 8' x 8' tailgate space plus hourly door prize drawing



- Many hourly prizes **PLUS HIGH-END BUCKET PRIZES!!**
- VE exam to be held at 8:30 am (off site)  
Cornell Co-Op Ext. (Solar Bldg); 50 W. High St / Rt 67 west  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
- Lots of NEW AND USED gear and accessories to haggle over
- Demonstrations and exhibitions
- Fox-hunt on the fairground property
- Under-cover tables available for \$10 each
- Delicious Food served all day

**Directions:**

- I-87 to Exit 12
- West on Rt 67 to Ballston Spa
- At intersection of Rts 50 & 67, follow 50 North; look for HAMFEST signs
- In village, turn left at Citgo station on Prospect Street; up hill on left

**Talk-In**

K2DLL Repeater System  
147.000 or 147.240  
PL = 91.5 Hz

**GPS Coordinates**

43.007438 ° -73.855821 °

For Information or reservations contact: Jim Polewczak - KG2H  
231 Northline Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Email: [kg2h@arrl.net](mailto:kg2h@arrl.net)

Phone: 518-703-9558

SEE US AT [www.K2DLL.ORG](http://www.K2DLL.ORG)

If you have questions about how to get started in ham radio, *On the Air* has the answers.



[On the Air](#), ARRL's new bimonthly magazine for beginner and intermediate hams, is here! All ARRL members can access the digital edition through the new ARRL Magazines app (see details below).

**In the first issue of *On the Air* January/February 2020, you'll get:**

- A guide to buying your first handheld radio
- Step-by-step instructions for building simple antennas for VHF and HF
- A full-page infographic that explains how the ionosphere makes long-distance radio communication possible
- An "Up Close" Q & A with Jeremy Hong, KD8TUO, who reveals his favorite resources for new hams.

*...and much more!*

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### Download the **NEW** ARRL Magazines App!

The perfect companion for members on the go! The new **ARRL Magazines** app replaces the QST app. Use the app to access current and back issues of *On the Air* magazine and *QST*, ARRL's monthly membership journal. The ARRL Magazines App is available free for download in Apple's [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#), or visit [www.arrl.org/ota](http://www.arrl.org/ota) for more info. **If your device is setup to update apps automatically, the ARRL Magazines app will replace the QST app.**

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Dues Time

Its that time of the year again. Our dues run on the calendar year. Many of you have already paid your 2020 dues, and I thank you. If you don't know when you're due you can contact me, KG2H@ARRL.NET and I will let you know. Your can always send me your dues anyhow, and if you are current, I will just add another year to your record, so don't let doubt dissuade you from sending your dues in. Thanks.

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Thanks go out to :

W2QCY, N2SHC, N2SSL, and W2BEW

**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

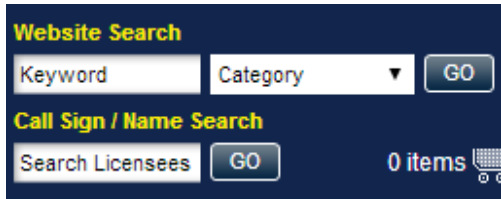
Dues are \$10 per year, Payable to **Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.**

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

Admin – Amt \_\_\_\_\_ Cash    Check #      # of years \_\_\_\_\_      Was      Now



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 and Board Members

### President

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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 :

[K62H@ARRL.NET](mailto:K62H@ARRL.NET)

### 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