

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

April SCARA Meeting Cancelled

Due to the emergency situation surrounding COVID-19 virus, the Board of Directors is announcing that the regularly scheduled April 13, 2020 meeting is cancelled. There is no decision concerning the May meeting at this time.

Please feel free to join into the regular 7:00 PM Sunday evening net on the .00 and .24 repeaters in order to hear the latest of what's happening in the Saratoga area.

Stick with the social distancing recommendations and practice the necessary hygiene precautions.

Dayton Hamvention Cancels 2020 Show

For the first time in its 68-year history, Dayton Hamvention® will not take place this year, due to concerns about the coronavirus outbreak. The glum news was not entirely unexpected, given widespread cancellations of public gatherings and a national state of emergency.

"The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year," Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, said in announcing the cancellation on March 15. "This decision is extremely difficult for us, but with around 2 months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted. Thank you for your understanding in this time of international crisis."

The Dayton Hamvention cancellation comes less than a week after the International DX Convention in Visalia, California, called off this year's show. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

Since 2017, Hamvention has been held each May at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. The international gathering attracted more than 32,000 visitors in 2019.

Hamvention's announcement has caused the cancellation of other associated events. These include Contest University, the Contest Dinner, and the Top Band Dinner. The QRP Amateur Radio Club International's "Four Days in May" event has also been cancelled. Presumably, the DX Dinner, sponsored by the SouthWest Ohio DX Association ([SWODXA](#)) and AMSAT Academy have also been called off, although no formal announcements have been made.

Other Hamfest Cancellations Brian NJ1F

Also here is a link to the hamfest calendar with the keyword "canceled" on the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/canceledHamfests.php>

Free Antenna TOM CAFARELLA KC2ETH

I am shutting down my station and have a Titan DX antenna, free, for anyone willing to disassemble it and remove it by the end of April. It is manufactured by GAP. My email for any response is tcafarel@nycap.rr.com and my call is KC2ETH.

Update from Interim CEO Barry J. Shelley, N1VXY

To ARRL Members

This message is to let our members know that the ARRL remains operational to meet the needs of our members during this Coronavirus outbreak. At the same time, we are taking steps to help protect the health and safety of ARRL Headquarters employees in line with the recommendations being provided by U.S. and Connecticut state health officials and governmental leaders.

We have arranged for many of our staff, depending on their job responsibilities and requirements, to work remotely during this unprecedented time. This helps the organization reduce the number of people in the building and improve our "social distancing" capabilities.

At the present time, all departments at ARRL Headquarters are functioning and customer service representatives remain available to answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate department to assist you. During this period, though, we strongly encourage members to use email as the preferred method of communication with ARRL in order to get you the timeliest response possible.

In particular, the ARRL's VEC Department has been dealing with a higher-than-normal volume of emails and phone calls, and the staff there asks for your patience while they attempt to answer everyone as quickly as possible. There has been some significant disruption to VE exam schedules, given the restrictions that have been placed on gatherings in many locales. As with our employees, the health and safety of our Volunteer Examiners is a top priority and we have informed our VEs that they need to follow their local community's guidelines and then use their best judgement when deciding whether to conduct, postpone, or cancel an exam session.

As previously reported, we have suspended all visits and tours of ARRL Headquarters and W1AW, so we have asked all volunteers to stay home until further notice.

All of these actions will remain in place until further notice. We will continue to monitor conditions from this outbreak and follow any additional guidelines provided by federal and state health professionals and government officials. We thank you for your understanding and patience during this difficult time.

73,
Barry J. Shelley, N1VXY
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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

Phone: 518-703-9558

SEE US AT www.K2DLL.ORG

FCC Levies \$18,000 Fine on Louisiana Amateur Radio Licensee

In an enforcement case prompted by complaints filed in 2017, the FCC has imposed an \$18,000 forfeiture on Jerry W. Materne, KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, for intentional interference and failure to identify. The FCC had proposed the fine in a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) in the case in July 2018, and, based on Materne's response to the NAL, the agency affirmed the fine in a March 12 Forfeiture Order (FO).

As the FCC recounted in the FO, an FCC agent "observed Materne causing intentional interference to a local repeater by generating digital noise into an analog radio." The agent further reported that Materne failed to transmit his call sign, as required.

Materne disputed the FCC's findings, arguing that the NAL should be canceled because the agent "was mistaken in his determination that the source of the interference was Materne's station" as his radio was not capable of operating on the repeater frequency in question, the FCC said in the NO. Materne also asserted that he is unable to pay the fine and suggested in his response that the FCC should be able to access his financial information.

The FCC countered that the radio the agent observed in Materne's possession was capable of operating on the frequency in question. "We therefore are unpersuaded...that the proposed forfeiture should be canceled because, he alleges, he was not the party causing interference to the repeater and the radio in his possession could not operate on the frequency in question," the FCC said in affirming the findings of the NAL. "We are also unpersuaded by Materne's argument that he lacks the ability to pay the full \$18,000 forfeiture." The FCC said Materne failed to provide the FCC with proof of inability to pay, as required by the NAL.

The FCC gave Materne 30 days to pay the fine, or face having the case turned over to the US Department of Justice for enforcement.

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest (March 12) episode of the On the Air podcast focuses on how to calculate feed line loss, real-world examples of how digital and analog FM transceivers handle weak signals, and an interview with Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator for the National Weather Service Boston/Norton office. In the interview, Rob offers information about how hams can get involved with SKYWARN.

The latest episode of the Eclectic Tech podcast (Episode 3) includes an interview with JS8Call creator Jordan Sherer, KN4CRD, revisiting SSTV, and a discussion of arc-fault circuit breakers with Bob Allison, WB1GCM.

Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry -- On the Air | Eclectic Tech.

Dues Time

Its that time of the year again. Our dues run on the calendar year. Most 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. Remember, its only \$10. Thanks.

Thanks go out to :

KG5JEN and K2EU

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

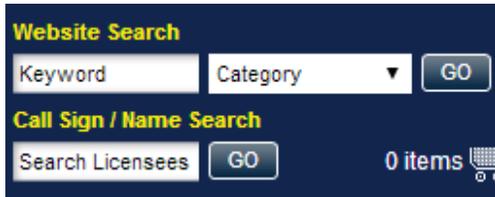
Dues are \$10 per year, Payable to **Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.**

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, 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 :

KG2H@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