

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## April meeting summary. Jim KG2H

We held our April meeting virtually via Zoom. The speaker was Burce Blain, K1BG. Bruce spoke about the history of amateur radio licensing, focusing on the entry level licensing requirements. In the beginning there was only one class of license. The beginning of the testing era was a very simple test, which encouraged easy entry into ham radio with emphasis on the school aged population. As time progressed, the licensing structure became more and more complicated and difficult, resulting in the aging of the ham radio population. There are various reasons for happening.

Bruce has studied the progression of testing in great detail, interviewing many of the well-known ham radio figures, past and present. He has copies of almost all of the ham radio license manuals. Bruce offered to send out PDF copies of one of the earliest manuals to people who were interested. At my request he sent me the 1951 manual. Did you know the novice test at that time consisted of only 28 questions? Here are a sample of the questions:

- What is the maximum input power permitted to the final stage of the transmitter in a station licensed to the holder of a Novice Class license or operated by such an operator?
- What method of frequency control is required to be used in the transmitter of a station licensed to the holder of a Novice class license?
- What is the purpose of: a modulator; an amplifier; a rectifier; a filter?
- What is the relationship between a cycle, a kilocycle and a megacycle?

And a bunch of other equally stimulating and exciting questions. The purpose of the test was to ensure that the users had a fundamental idea of how to control and operate a ham radio station.

( If anyone is interested, I will be happy to forward a copy of the manual to anyone who requests one. Just drop me a line at [KG2H@arrl.net](mailto:KG2H@arrl.net) - jim )

## Upcoming May 11 meeting.

Our may meeting speaker will be John Corini KE1IH will give a presentation on his Rohn 45 tower project. We will also likely have some discussions about Field Day, and the hamfest. Perhaps some other things that will be of interest.

We will hold it virtually via ZOOM, just like last month. When we get closer to the date I will publish the details to the membership.

# SCARA Hamfest date, the absolute final, final word!!

The hamfest date has been a bit of an issue this year. We have changed the date several times previously. Now we have the final date, and it is ..... September 27.

We had a date in September, but the Tour de Cure lost their normal June date to the Corona Virus. The last date they could arrange with the Fairgrounds to have the entire weekend (Saturday and Sunday) happened to coincide with our hamfest. Since the club has been a big supporter of the Tour, and we only needed the Sunday, we generously allowed them to have our old date, and we arranged this new date for our purpose.

Plans are proceeding forward. A batch of emails have been sent out to our vendors, and we're crossing our fingers for good weather!! See you then.

## **ARRL Suggests Taking a Creative Approach to Field Day 2020** 04/22/2020

This year, ARRL [Field Day](#) promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation.

Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social-distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional Field Day site may not be feasible or safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign. ARRL will include club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member's results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity.

Myriad opportunities are possible in this year's Field Day setting. These are just a couple.

Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year.

Set up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entries in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie.

One club is planning to conduct its Field Day as a 4A club group, with participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the required 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while GOTA operators participate via remote link.

Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at its usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their homes. The club is developing a schedule that outlines when each member of the club will be at the helm via the remote link.

Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation.

ARRL invites your stories about the interesting and creative ways you're planning to use to adapt your Field Day operation. Share these on the [ARRL Field Day Facebook](#) page.

For the latest news and updates, visit the [Field Day webpage](#). — *Thanks to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, NISFE*

FINAL DATE!    SUNDAY SEPT 27    FINAL DATE!

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association presents our  
35th annual

# HAMFEST 2020

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27; 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  
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

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)

# The Origin of “73”

*This account by L.R. Moreau first appeared in the SPARK GAP TIMES, the journal of the Old Timers Club of the USA. I feel it might help put an end to those “73’s,” “Very best 73’s,” and “Seventy-thirds” used on the bands by “them wot don’t know no better.”*

The traditional expression “73” dates from early land-line telegraph days. You can find it in the earliest editions of the “numerical codes,” with definitions that are variations on the same idea. “73” indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up.

The *National Telegraphic Review Operator’s Guide*, first published in April 1857, shows “73,” meaning, “My love to you”! Succeeding issues continued to give this definition. Yet some of the other numeric codes in use back then had the same meanings as today.

Before long, the meaning of “73” drifted away from “My love to you.” Another publication, the *National Telegraphic Convention*, defined “73” as a vague sign of fraternalism—just a friendly greeting between operators. It was so used on all wires for many years.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the “92 Code,” a list of numerals from 1 to 92 that referred to a series of prepared phrases for use on the wires. In the 92 Code, “73” changes from a fraternal sign to a flowery “Accept my compliments”—in keeping with the florid language of the era.

Telegraphy manuals published between 1859 and 1900 show variations of this more straightforward meaning. Dodge’s *The Telegrapher Instructor* shows it as “compliments,” but Theodore Edison’s *Telegraphy Self-Taught* reports a return to “accept my compliments.” Finally, a 1908 edition of the Dodge manual gives today’s definition, “best regards,” though a backward look in another part of that work also lists “compliments.”

“Best regards” has remained the literal definition of “73” ever since, but more recently “73” has re-acquired overtones of a warmer meaning. Amateurs use it today as James Reid intended so long ago—as a friendly word between operators.

*submitted by H. Pain, G3ATH to (and appearing in) the Southwestern Virginia Wireless Assoc. March ‘93 “Groundwave”. Bill Svec, WA4BKW, edits “Groundwave.”*

## Exciting news from ARRL !!

ARRL members will now receive digital access to four ARRL magazines beginning with their latest issues. Joining *QST* and *On the Air* on a digital platform will be the bimonthly editions of *QEX* — The Forum for Communications Experimenters and *NCJ* — National Contest Journal. *QEX* includes articles, columns, and other features ranging from construction projects to more advanced technical information in radio theory and practice. *NCJ* targets radio amateurs active in radiosport, and includes scores, technical articles, contributions from top contesters, and advice for radiosport enthusiasts alike.

*"All members can enjoy specialized content and a high-quality reading experience whether at their desk or on the go. Offering this suite of digital magazines is an opportunity for us to give members more of what they want while adding value to ARRL membership"* said ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

ARRL's digital magazine editions provide replicas of the printed editions with added functionality, allowing users to fully search issues, enlarge pages, share articles, and more. All four are easily accessible through any web browser from members-only links. The free ARRL Magazines app also supports downloading complete issues for offline reading. It is available for iOS and Android in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

### **EGARA Hamfest Re-Scheduled to August 29th at Request Health Officials**

At the direction of local, state and federal health officials, **the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association has rescheduled its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Hamfest** from Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to **Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**. EGARA fully supports the request in response to safeguarding the health of its members, vendors and the many Amateur Radio enthusiasts who attend the event each year.

The location of the Hamfest will remain the same, located at the pavilion of the East Greenbush Fire Department, 68 Phillips Road, Rensselaer, New York. The time will also remain the same, with the gate opening at 8 am, and vendor set up beginning at 7 am.

EGARA will use the additional time to further promote the event and its sponsors. Because so many Hamfests and Amateur Radio activities have been canceled completely due to the coronavirus pandemic – including the annual Hamvention in Dayton -- we believe our event will experience a surge in attendance and we are taking appropriate steps to handle the expected increase.

We want to thank our fellow hams, as well as our sponsors for their understanding and support during these difficult times. EGARA will continue to publicize our sponsor's products and services as we continue to build and expand our 2020 Hamfest in August. These efforts will include our website, newsletter, and our ongoing marketing and outreach.

As we continue to build toward the new August date, we welcome Amateur Radio businesses and vendors to join our Hamfest as sponsors. They are invited to contact Bryan Jackson at [W2RBJ@Outllok.com](mailto:W2RBJ@Outllok.com) for information and details.

## New England QSO Party:

I'd appreciate your help in publicizing the upcoming New England QSO Party on May 2nd and 3rd. Please mention it at your next club meeting and in your newsletter. Hope you've had good success in using virtual meetings!

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

With travel restrictions we do not expect to have activity from mobile stations but hope we can generate a big increase in home station activity. Our goal is to get every one of the 67 counties in New England on the air so we hope you will encourage your members to join in the fun! Even if you can join the fun for a couple of hours, we'd appreciate it! **Will you be QRV? Let us know with a message to [info@neqp.org](mailto:info@neqp.org)**

The New England QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who sends in a log will get a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world - and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

Last year we had logs from almost 200 New England stations and 450 more from around the country and world.

The full rules are here -> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The 2019 results were posted last weekend -> <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

It's just three weeks until the 2020 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log!

73 Tom/K1KI

## New 144 MHz Transatlantic Record Reported 04/13/2020

The claimed transatlantic record on 2 meters has been extended to nearly 4,760 kilometers (2,951 miles).

"The incredible tropo conditions between Cape Verde Islands and the Caribbean continue to amaze with transatlantic contacts on 144 MHz and 432 MHz being made," John Desmond, EI7GL, said in a blog post. The April 8 FT8 contact was between D4VHF in the Cape Verde Islands and PJ2BR on Curacao. The distance covered was some 300 kilometers greater than the previous transatlantic record, set last summer by D41CV and NP4BM.

The new 2-meter transatlantic record distance is about 10 kilometers short of the IARU Region 1 tropospheric propagation record on that band, Desmond said.

On April 7, an operator at D4VHF and Burt Demarcq, FG8OJ, on Guadeloupe completed the first direct transatlantic contact on 70 centimeters, spanning 3,867 kilometers (2,398 miles) using FT8.

## A note from Brian NJ1F

I hope club members will be able to operate in the event. We are trying to involve as many NY Hams as we can. We have the call K2H from May 1<sup>st</sup> until May 31<sup>st</sup> .

I am sending a one pager, that became 2 ! Plus the Certificate of Appreciation that can be downloaded.

The link to NYQSO has been added to the K2H QRZ Page to list counties.

Here is the Newslite story.

### **NY HAMS PREPARE A RADIO THANK-YOU TO PANDEMIC HEROES**

**PAUL/ANCHOR:** In New York, hams are preparing a statewide thank-you to those on the front lines of this unprecedented pandemic. Jim Damron N8TMW has that story.

**JIM:** Hams in New York State, which has more COVID-19 patients than any other U.S. state - and more cases than any other nation - are giving the world's biggest amateur radio "thank you" to the men and women on the front lines. The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club in Lindenhurst, New York, is coordinating the activation of special event station K2H - that's "H" for heroes - starting May 1st and running through May 31st. This is a statewide activation, with hams in every county throughout the state operating in the spirit of gratitude for the police, firefighters, mortuary workers, medical professionals and food -service workers - the people who keep things moving while the world itself seems to have stopped. If you're in New York State and wish to join them, please email the organizers at k 2 h heroes at gmail dot com (k2hheroes@gmail.com) for details -- that's k2h followed by the word "heroes" at gmail dot com. If you're hearing this report anywhere in the world, be listening for K2H on all bands and in all modes. Downloadable certificates will be available -- as will big thank-yous for everyone.

For Amateur Radio Newslite, I'm Jim Damron N8TMW.

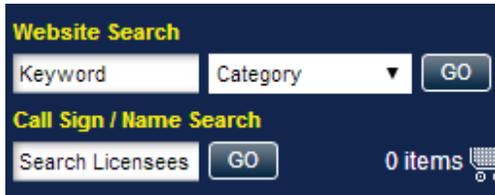
We want to involve as many hams in NY State that want to operate, so anything you can do to spread the word will be appreciated.

To register to operate just email name, call and county to [k2hheroes@gmail.com](mailto:k2hheroes@gmail.com) <<mailto:k2hheroes@gmail.com>>  
Thanks for your help

Lou - NO2C

Cell - 516-805-0059

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



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W5BN@nycap.rr.com

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PETERMIL@verizon.net

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K2LM@nycap.rr.com

### Treasurer:

Jim Polewczak—K62H  
K62H@arrl.net

### Directors:

Dennis Kagel—WA2JWO  
KADELL@mybluelight.com

Mike Levy K2ZIP  
levymike@AOL.COM

Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP  
SROSENB2@nycap.rr.com

Brian Szewczyk—NJ1F  
Dave.Bargovic@gmail.com

### Radio Officer:

Frank Frisone KA2QYE  
KA2QYE@arrl.net

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