

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

June 2020 elections. Jim—KG2H

The highlight of the June meeting was the election of new officers for the upcoming year. I am please to present the new list of officers:

President : Mike Levy - K2ZIP
Vice President: Peter Miller - W2BEW
Secretary: Jim McKnight - K2LM
Treasurer: Jim Polewczak - KG2H
Directors:
Fred Brown - W5BN
Fred Halley - W2EMS
Steve Rosenberg - WA2TTP
Randy Woessner KC1NN

Rounding out the board is the non-elected position of county appointed radio officer Frank Frisone KA2QYE

The contact information for each of these officers are at the end of the newsletter.

Other June membership highlights Jim—KG2H

There were 2 other major topics of discussion at the June meeting.

Brian—NJ1F spoke about our field day effort this year on June 27 and 28. Because of COVID-19 we will not be having a traditional field day . Members will operate most likely from their own homes or other socially isolated position. When entering the results on the ARRL website, be sure to credit the club on the form. Please be sure to spell the club name correctly, **Saratoga County ARA**. That way the club name will aggregate all our individual scores. If you misspell it, who knows where your score will be credited to.

Peter - W2BEW spoke about our upcoming hamfest on Sept 27. We are still on, hoping that this COVID-19 pandemic does not once again take a turn for the worse.

Additional articles on these 2 topics are presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jim KG2H gave an annual Treasurer's report. The bottom line is that in the last year (June 2019 to May 2020) the club spent about \$900 more than the revenue we received.

2020 Field Day operating tips Brian—NJ1F

Because of COVID 19 the ARRL 2020 Field Day has some very unique temporary rules for this year only that allow Saratoga County ARA members to operate from their home stations and have their individual scores to be added together with other Saratoga County ARA members for a total club score. In order to maximize the clubs "total" score and have fun here are a few tips

You will use your own call while operating Field Day

Pick your entry class (*most likely 1D or 1E*)

Class D. Home station commercial power

4.6 Stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Traditionally, Class D stations may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E and F Field Day stations. However, in 2020 Class D stations may count contacts with all classes.

Class E. Home Station emergency power

4.7 Same as Class D, but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers.

NOTE: if you chose to operate class E you must use emergency power for the entire field day period. Examples of emergency power are generator or battery

Output Power effects how much each qso is worth

5 Watts or Less battery power X5

150 Watts or Less X2

150 Watts or More Z1

Bonus Points (operating from home here is a list of easy ways to increase your score to help the club)

100% emergency power

7.3.1 100 points per transmitter classification if all contacts are made only using an emergency power source (maximum 2,000 points). All transmitting equipment at the site must operate from a power source completely independent of the commercial power mains. *Available to Class A, B, C, E and F.*

Media Publicity (*Send a Press Release about FD to a local media outlet*)

7.3.2 100 bonus points may be earned for attempting to obtain publicity from the local media. A copy of the press release, or a copy of the actual media publicity received (newspaper article, etc.) must be submitted to claim the points. *Available to all classes.*

Formal message to ARRL SM/SEM

7.3.5 100 bonus points for origination of a formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site. You should include the club name, number of participants, Field Day location and number of ARES operators involved with your station. The message must be transmitted during the Field Day period and a fully serviced copy of it must be included in your submission, in standard ARRL radiogram, or no credit will be given. The message must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF. The Section Manager message is separate from the messages addressed in Rule 7.3.6 and may not be claimed for bonus points under that rule. Available to all classes.

W1AW Field Day Message

7.3.9 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH) during its operating schedule during the Field Day weekend (listed in rules announcement). An accurate copy of the message is required to be included in your Field Day submission. (Note: The Field Day bulletin must be copied via amateur radio. It will not be included in Internet bulletins sent out from Headquarters and will not be posted to Internet BBS sites.) Available to all classes.

Formal Message Handled

7.3.6 10 points for each formal message originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages). Properly serviced copies of each message must be included with the Field Day report. The message to the ARRL SM or SEC under rule 7.3.5 may not be counted in the total of 10 for this bonus. Enter the total number of messages handled in the text box. All messages claimed for bonus points must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF. Available to all classes.

Natural Power QSOs Completed

7.3.8 100 bonus points for Field Day groups making a minimum of five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or a petroleum driven generator. This means an "alternate" energy source of power, such as solar, wind, methane or water. This includes batteries charged by natural means (not dry cells). The natural power transmitter counts as an additional transmitter. If you do not wish to increase your operating category, you should take one of your other transmitters off the air while the natural power transmitter is in operation. A separate list of natural power QSOs should be submitted with your entry. Available to Classes A, B, E and F.

Youth Participation (have your kids or grandkids make a QSO or QSOs)

7.3.15 A 20-point bonus (maximum of 100) may be earned for each participant age 18 or younger at your Field Day operation that completes at least one QSO. Enter the number of youth participants who complete at least one QSO in the text box. For a 1-person Class B station, a 20-point bonus is earned if the operator is age 18 or younger. For a 2-person Class B station, a 20-point bonus is earned for each operator age 18 or younger (maximum of 40 points). This bonus does not allow the total number of participants in Class B to exceed 2. Enter the total number of participants (operators, loggers, set-up crew and visitors) 18 years or younger at your Field Day site in the text box. Available to all classes.

Social Media (this is a very easy 100 points)

7.3.16 One 100-point bonus for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public via an active, recognized and utilized social media platform (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)

I recommend using a computer logging program if you plan on making 50 or more contacts. There are several programs that will generate the needed Cabrillo file required for submitting your entry. Some of the programs you can use include:

N3FJP <https://www.n3fjp.com/> Requires a purchase of about \$9
N1MM <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/> Free

You can use any logging software that allows you to log the required Exchange information and outputs a ADIF file format. *(I can convert the ADIF file format to the Require CABRILLO format if you email me the ADIF file)*

Submitting your entry

Got to <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>

It will look like the screen shot below

Fill out the form with your information.

Field Day entries must be submitted or (post marked) by July 28. Late entries will not be accepted.

For the Club or Group Name make sure to put in (**Saratoga County ARA**)



2020 Field Day Entry

Attention! Entries for the 2020 Field Day are not being accepted until its start at 2020-06-27 18:00:00

Complete this form to submit your Field Day Entry to the ARRL for review and tabulation. You can access a help page by clicking on [?](#) next to an item on the form. **Note:** You can select documentation files for upload as you complete this form, or you can upload the documents at a later time. Each document can not be larger than 6 MB.

Call Used [?](#) GOTA Station Call [?](#) Location [?](#)

Club or Group Name [?](#)

Number of Participants [?](#) Number of Transmitters in simultaneous operation [?](#)

Entry Class (check only one):

- A. Club or non-club group portable [?](#)
- B. 1 or 2 person non-club group portable [?](#) List of calls of operators:
- C. Mobile [?](#)
- D. Home station commercial power [?](#)
- E. Home station emergency power [?](#)
- F. EOC station [?](#)

Power Source (check all that apply):

- Generator Commercial mains Battery Solar Other (list)

Power Multiplier (check only one):

- 5 watts or less and battery powered = 5x
- 150 watts or less = 2x
- Over 150 watts = 1x

Note: Bonus points for satellite QSO, GOTA QSOs and web submission will be automatically determined from info entered elsewhere on this form.

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown: Do not list GOTA QSOs in this section. [?](#)

		CW		Digital		Phone		Upload band/mode calls list (Dupe Sheet or Cabrillo file): <input type="text" value="Browse..."/> <input type="text" value="No file selected."/>	
Band	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	
<input type="checkbox"/>									

Note: Bonus points for satellite QSO, GOTA QSOs and web submission will be automatically determined from info entered elsewhere on this form.

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown: Do not list GOTA QSOs in this section. [?](#)

		CW		Digital		Phone		Upload band/mode calls list (Dupe Sheet or Cabrillo file): <input type="text" value="Browse..."/> <input type="text" value="No file selected."/>	
Band	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	160m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	80m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	40m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	20m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	15m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	10m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	6m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	2m								
<input type="checkbox"/>	222								
<input type="checkbox"/>	432								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Satellite								

For **GOTA Bonus**, list names, calls and number of QSOs for each GOTA station operator: [?](#) Check for GOTA coach extra credit [?](#)

	CW	Digital	Phone
<input type="text"/>			

I/We have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations for amateur radio in my/our country. My/our report is correct and true to the best of my/our knowledge. I/We agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee. Submission of this form indicates my/our agreement with these statements. [?](#)

Name Call E-mail Address

You'll have an opportunity to enter comments using a link on the confirmation page.

Send comments or questions about this page to [ARRL Contest Manager](#).
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SCARA Hamfest date !!

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.

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.

SUNDAY SEPT 27

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 Phone: 518-703-9558

SEE US AT www.K2DLL.ORG

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 19th annual Hamfest** from Saturday, May 9th to **Saturday, August 29th**. 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 for information and details.

Here's something interesting—Jim KG2H

LOS ANGELES - QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, announced that the first QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will commence on August 8th and 9th, 2020, over a period of 48 hours. This virtual Expo is built on a live virtual reality platform commonly used by Fortune 500 companies and major universities. Attendance is free, and anyone can attend from their home or office.

Eric and his team, including George Zafiropoulos, KJ6VU, have assembled 50+ of the best ham radio mentors in multiple tracks to address this conference from the virtual Expo's auditorium. Icom has taken the lead as the Expo's Platinum Sponsor, along with Gold Sponsors RT Systems, FlexRadio, RFinder, DX Engineering, Elecraft, and GigaParts.

At the Expo, amateur radio operators will be able to:

- Learn from a packed line-up of renowned ham radio speakers such as Ward Silver, NOAX, on Grounding and Bonding; Glen Johnson, W0GJ, on DXpeditions, and John Portune, W6NBC, on building slot antennas for HOA.
- See demos of the latest ham radio equipment from the world's top equipment companies. Attendees can easily ask questions and engage with Exhibitors through video, audio, or chat.
- Share ideas and network with their fellow ham radio operators at any time throughout the Expo.

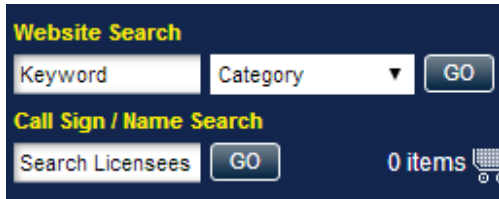
This platform simulates a full convention experience with an exhibit hall and exhibit booths staffed by live attendants, speaker auditorium, lobby, and lounges.

"I was planning on my own trip to Dayton this year when I heard of its cancellation, followed by Friedrichsaffen, and now Huntsville. With the encouragement of my listeners and guests of the QSO Today Podcast, I spent months looking at alternatives before deciding on a platform to create this virtual event to share with the amateur radio community. Our virtual Expo also means that the hundreds of thousands of ham radio operators that have never to a 'physical' event can now also participate. Admission is free, and door prizes will be posted to the event's website as they are added. Since the Expo is completely funded by exhibitor booth sales, I'm encouraged by the great response from Icom and other sponsors" said Eric, 4Z1UG.

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will commence on Saturday August 8th, run for 48 hours as a live event, then will be available as an on-demand event for another 30 days. "How many conventions have I gone to, especially large ones, where I had no time to visit all of the exhibitor booths? Now I can attend every lecture, and engage as many exhibitors as I want since everything is available for 30 days after the Expo" said Eric, 4Z1UG.

For more information go to www.qsotodayhamexpo.com

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



Officers and Board Members

President:

Mike Levy K2ZIP
levymike@AOL.COM

Vice President:

Peter Miller—W2BEW
PETERMIL@verizon.net

Secretary:

Jim McKnight K2LM
K2LM@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer:

Jim Polewczak—K62H
K62H@arrl.net

Directors:

Fred Brown W5BN
W5BN@nycap.rr.com

Fred Halley W2EMS
W2EMS@arrl.net

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SROSENB2@nycap.rr.com

Randy Woessner KC1NN
KC1NN@arrl.net

Radio Officer:

Frank Frisone
KA2QYE@arrl.net

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 :

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