

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

September Meeting

Our September monthly meeting will be a Zoom meeting once again. The board met on Aug 31, and we pretty much decided that we will most likely be holding Zoom meetings thru the rest of the calendar year. Things may change of course.

In the September meeting we have 2 topics of discussion.

The first thing is the possibility of experimenting with a virtual hamfest since we could not hold our own physical hamfest in September. Brian (NJ1F) and Mike (K2ZIP) have come up with some viable ideas and we would like to discuss them as well as getting your input and ideas. We are thinking a November timeframe may be possible.

The second thing is discussing the SET exercise set for October 3.

The meeting specifications will be distributed in email later, closer to the September 14 meeting date.

Field Day Partial Results Jim KG2H

The ARRL has issued a list of the logs received from Field Day in June. There were 15 logs received denoting our club as the place to be. This list is as of August 4, 2020, well after the cutoff date for entries to be made.

This is **OUTSTANDING** participation, its almost more than the normal number of folks who participate in setup and operation of our on site operation. The scores will not be posted until the December issue of QST hits the stands, but I'm really looking forward to how the club entries total up.

K1RQ	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	2E	ENY
K2LK	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY
K2LM	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY
K2ZIP	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1B	ENY
KC1NN	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY
KC2NXC	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY
KC2YLM	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY
KG2H	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1E	ENY
KG5JEN	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1B	ENY
N2MBX	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1E	ENY
N2QFT	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY
W2BEW	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1E	ENY
W2EMS	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY
W2MRD	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1E	ENY
W5BN	Complete	Saratoga County ARA	1D	ENY

Amateur Radio Capital Region Tradernet Announcement

The Capital Region Amateur Radio Tradernet meets every Wednesday night at 8 pm EST on the 146.940 repeater. We buy, sell, and trade amateur radio stuff and gear. We invite you to the net. All stations are welcome to join the net for the purpose of listing and buying gear and just having a good time with ham radio. The net is a directed net and all stations must go through net control. We look forward to hearing you on the net. Please tell your friends and invite them as well.

Jay - K2QNU, Net Control of the Capital Region Amateur Radio Tradernet

New ARRL CEO—Dave Minster, NA2AA jim—KG2H

We got word from our Hudson Division Director that the ARRL has elected a new CEO, Dave Minster NA2AA. Dave is a member of the Hudson Division, so he is sort of a "home town boy".

When I first read the announcement, I said to myself, "that call sounds familiar." Sure enough, my log has him in it on May 28 2020, operating 6 meters. It's great that our new leader has enough time to actively get on the air. I wish him well, although I'm sure that his operating

Solar Minimum Most Likely Occurred in December 2019 - ARRL 08/31/2020

Sunspot Index and Long-Term Solar Observations (SILSO) in Belgium said this month that the minimum between Solar Cycles 24 and 25 "most probably" took place last December. SILSO, a part of the Royal Observatory of Belgium and formerly known as SIDC, cited as evidence the January 2020 increase in the 13-month smoothed sunspot number — the first upswing since the Cycle 24 maximum in April 2014.

"[F]or now, this latest smoothed value in January 2020 is the very first point indicating a rise of the activity. So, the date of the minimum still needs a full confirmation over the coming months," SILSO said on its website. "For now, preliminary smoothed values, limited to less than 13 months, hint at increasing values over coming months. If the rising trend indeed continues, this [December 2019] date will become fully definitive."

SILSO said another indication of the transition between the two solar cycles can be drawn from counting individual sunspot groups that belong to either the old or new solar cycle. "While most sunspot groups belonged to the last solar cycle [Cycle 24] until September 2019, the dominance switched to groups of the new cycle in November 2019," SILSO said.

SILSO said that in terms of the number of active regions, the minimum between Cycle 24 and Cycle 25 falls in October 2019. "This is close to December 2019," SILSO said. It attributes the difference to three factors:

The sunspot number also takes into account the total number of spots, and thus the size of the emerging active regions.

The time of the minimum depends on the respective trends of the declining phase of the past cycle, and of the rising phase of the new cycles, over the 12 months surrounding the minimum.

The date of the minimum has a significant uncertainty range. Near minimum the activity hardly varies and is close to minimum during a few months. "The date of the minimum is thus always less sharply defined than the date of the maximum of the cycles, which are more sharply peaked," SILSO explained.

"This late-breaking upward trend is now expected to accelerate over the coming months," SILSO predicted. "So be prepared for a more eruptive and interesting sun!"

SILSO is preserving the longest record of solar activity, which spans the last 4 centuries.

Hudson Division Newsletter - Ria N2RJ

As we near the end of the Summer season (unofficially, and soon, officially) in a most interesting and challenging year, we hope that everyone is prepared for autumn and winter. For some this will mean antenna maintenance before winter sets in, and for others it means possibly moving out from a vacation QTH back into our regular residence. But for many it means back to work and school. And since school is back in season, I'd urge you to take the opportunity to introduce amateur radio to a young person in your life.

The next issue of ARRL's "On the Air" magazine should now be hitting mailboxes and inboxes, and in it are a few articles with practical tips and simple projects. Also, there is an article from Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, where he talks about his experiences with scouting and how it led him to amateur radio and later on, a career in engineering and science as a professor at NJIT and now, the University of Scranton.

You can get a free sample digital issue by going to <http://www.arrl.org/ota-sample>

We do have a few things to talk about, so read on.

HUDSON DIVISION AWARDS LUNCHEON POSTPONED TO APRIL 10, 2021 The date is set! Our awards luncheon will take place on April 10, 2021 at Cafe Internationale at Ramada, in Newburgh, NY. More details including nomination forms will be available soon. Many thanks to the Orange County ARC for organizing.

HRU 2021 LIKELY TO BE A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE From the LIMARC eLOG - per Richie K2KNB, Ham Radio University 2021 will likely be held as a virtual conference on Saturday, January 9, 2021.

More details as they are released from the HRU committee. HRU 2021 is dedicated to its late founder, Phil Lewis, N2MUN (SK).

NEW ARRL CEO - DAVID MINSTER, NA2AA

This past week I had announced the election of David Minster, NA2AA of Wayne, New Jersey as our new CEO. Many comments I have received from members were positive, and they wish him well in his new appointment.

Certainly, I am eager to work with him on new initiatives to strengthen amateur radio and the ARRL. His term of office begins on September 28, 2020. He will have his first formal Board meeting with us in January, but some of us will be meeting with him in the Administration and Finance committee as well as the IT infrastructure sub-committee meetings later in the year.

I would also like to thank Barry Shelley, N1VXY for his time filling in as interim CEO. His job was not an easy one, and I wish him well in his retirement.

WRAET PRESENTS - AN EVENING WITH BOB HEIL, K9EID The Wayne (NJ) Radio Amateur Emergency Team presents an evening with Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer Bob Heil, K9EID on September 11, 2020 at 7:30PM. All are welcome. I've attended a presentation of Bob's and it was an absolute delight hearing about the history of Heil sound and Bob's adventures through the world of ham radio and live sound.

Topic: WRAET Monthly Meeting

Time: Sep 11, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89735906736?pwd=ei8wMHpOY2dPa2xWWno0TFJpcmRadzO9>

Meeting ID: 897 3590 6736

FCC PROPOSES \$50 APPLICATION FEE FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES Certainly, this story has been the hot topic this past week. ARRL's Washington counsel, David Siddall, K3ZJ is working with the Board to craft an appropriate response. My personal opinion is that this fee will negatively impact growth in the amateur radio service. I do not support this fee, and I have expressed this concern.

If you wish to comment on this proposal, you may do so via the FCC ECFS, posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments even though deadlines have not yet been set.

More details are here:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-reinstate-amateur-radio-service-fees>

ECFS is here: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>

ARRL SEEKS NATIONAL CLUB COORDINATOR

ARRL is seeking to hire a national club coordinator. See more details and the job posting here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-national-club-coordinator>

NEW MBARC BREAKFAST NET

There is a new MBARC Breakfast club net which will take place at 10AM every Saturday on the AE2AN 146.970 repeater. It will continue as a roundtable format net for folks who would like to enjoy hearing other hams talk about various topics including food, ham radio and every thing in between.

That's all for this week!

Have a great Labor day.

Scouting's Jamboree on the Air Set for October 16, 17, and 18 - ARRL 08/31/2020

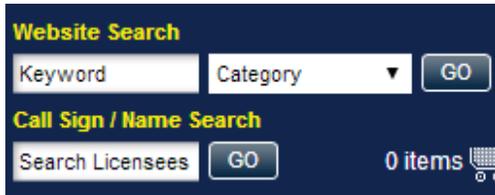
Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) will be held this year on October 16, 17, and 18. Register online as an individual or as a group.

Jamboree on the Air is the largest Scouting event in the world. In a typical year, more than 1 million Scouts participate in JOTA, with over 11,000 stations operated by 20,000+ young radio amateurs from 150+ countries around the world.

JOTA details are available on the K2BSA website. The website menu will direct users to additional supporting information. K2BSA's Jim Wilson, K5ND, says many locations are already offering virtual radio merit badge classes "and no doubt will be using similar approaches for Jamboree on the Air."

Editors note: Mickey N2MC can most likely hook you up with a scout troop if you wish to participate that way. He can be reached at mcorentto@gmail.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 aka Fraker Mountain
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 :

K2DLL@OUTLOOK.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