

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

October 12, 2020 Club General Meeting

The guest speaker for the evening was Fred Brown W5BN. Fred spoke on the topics of wire antennas, from the basic half wave dipoles and quarter wave verticals to some other more exotic possibilities. He also spoke about using quarter wave stubs to match the impedance of some antennas down to the 50 ohm impedance that our rigs really need now a days.

Minutes from October 12, 2020 Online Board Meeting

Board Mtg attendees included: K2ZIP, W2BEW, KH2H, NJ1F, WA2TTP, W2EMS, KC1NN

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Mike - K2ZIP
- Minutes from previous meeting (in newsletter) approved
- Treasurer's Report accepted (current balance \$18,861.50)
- OLD BUSINESS
 - SET After-Action Report from Phil - KC2YLM
 - Improved score from 2019
 - Need additional training in fldigi, Winlink, etc
- NEW BUSINESS
 - SCARA Virtual Hamfest now planned for Saturday, January 23, 2021
 - Mike - K2ZIP and Brian - NJ1F lead planning for Agenda Committee
 - Speakers Committee - Randy - KC1NN, NJ1F and K2ZIP
 - Vendors Committee - Peter - W2BEW, Steve - WA2TTP
 - Jim-KG2H outlined need for a formal process/document for grant requests for SCARA support.
 - Will continue to work with Jim-K2LM
 - Mickey - N2MC announced the Scouting Jamboree-On-The-Air To be held October 17 at the Girl Scout camp on Meadowbrook Rd,
 - 25 people at a time will be allowed inside due to Covid restrictions
 - Mickey requests volunteer operators to demonstrate ham radio (you can help from home with cont acts)
 - Peter - W2BEW requested help removing an antenna/tower for a non-ham in Saratoga Springs.
 - Tower was erected by previous owner; city demands removal. Team of volunteers assembled (tower now gone)

November 9, 2020 Meeting

Our November Meeting will have a presentation on an introduction to DMR, Digital Radio by Michael Martens KB9BVR..

Because of a schedule issue, the meeting will begin at 7:30 instead the normal 7:00 PM. The board meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. A link to the meeting will be emailed in a separate email.

Community involvement - Submitted by Peter - W2BEW

A couple of weeks ago, a gentleman, Rick Robischon posted on Next Door Saratoga asking if there were any ham operators in the area, saying he needed some help. I responded and asked what he needed. Rick, who is not a ham, explained that there was a 53-ft antenna tower in his yard, left there by the previous owner years before, and the city had directed him to remove it. I stopped by, took a few pictures, and told him I'd try to round up some helpers to take it down.

I sent a note to SCARA club members via k2DLL@groups.io asking if anyone was willing to help with the project. Folks began to volunteer and Brian, NJ1F, and I met at lunchtime and drew some conclusions: it was old enough, tall enough, and rusty enough that the best, safest way to bring it down was to lower it gently with a bucket truck. I called Gary, K2NB, in Cambridge, and he generously offered to come over on the weekend and make it happen.

We met Sunday, 10/18 at 11am, planned our attack, and went to work. The tower was hinged at the base, so loosening two bolts and removing two others and it was ready to be lowered down. Gary went up, up, up in the bucket and was able to take off most of the 30-ft aluminum pole at the top and hand it to the ground crew. Then he fastened a rope to the tower section and began to carefully fold it down. In no time, it was safely lying on the ground.

Then it was a matter of dismantling the base and separating the tower sections. The rusty bolts proved to be too much to complete the job in one morning, so we did what we could, soaked all the bolts and nuts in penetrating oil and I agreed to come back during the week with an impact wrench. JoAnna, N2QFT, has agreed to try to recondition the thing and get in/on the air. She and Dick will pick it up with their truck when it's fully disassembled.

Thanks to all the helpers on this project: Jim-KG2H, Dennis-WA2JWO, JoAnna-N2QFT, Dick-KD2DXQ, Fred-W2EMS, and Brian-NJ1F, who could not make the big event. Most of all - a big thank you to Gary-K2NB who saved the day with his fantastic bucket truck, and Tina-K2RT, who



Have a laugh

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 1019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars and keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
12. Appropriate analogy. "The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now" is like saying "The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now."
13. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and asking for money.
14. The spread of COVID-19 is based on 2 things:
 - o How dense the population is.
 - o How dense the population is.

Radio Amateurs in Western Pennsylvania to Commemorate KDKA Broadcasting Centennial via ARRL 10/28/2020

Pittsburgh radio station KDKA will celebrate 100 years of radio broadcasting in November, and Pennsylvania radio amateurs will honor that milestone in a multi-station special event. KDKA dates its broadcasting history to the airing of the Harding-Cox presidential results on November 2, 1920, and the station has been on the air ever since. The special event, which will involve the operation of four stations, will run through the entire month of November.

"More than 100 years ago, many experimenters started delving into a new technology known as wireless, or radio," said Bob Bastone, WC3O, Radio Officer for the Skyview Radio Society in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Bastone explained that many of those early pioneers were radio amateurs. "One hundred plus years later, many amateur radio operators are still contributing to wireless technology, while also serving their communities and enhancing international goodwill. Congratulations to KDKA Radio, also known in the early years as amateur radio stations 8XK, 8ZZ, and W8XK."

Special event stations K3K, K3D, K3A, and W8XK will set up and operate at several locations in Pennsylvania during November. Stations will determine their own modes and schedules. Visit the W8XK profile on QRZ.com for information on certificates and QSLs.

What became KDKA initially began broadcasting in 1916 as amateur radio station 8XK, licensed by the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), the predecessor to the FCC. At the time, amateurs were not prohibited from broadcasting. The small station was operated by Dr. Frank Conrad, who was Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company assistant chief engineer. The transmitter ran 75 W, and the broadcasts gained some popularity in Pittsburgh.

During World War I, amateur radio operation was suspended due to national security concerns. After the war, 8XK was reorganized as a commercial AM radio station, KDKA. The first transmissions of KDKA originated in a makeshift studio on the roof of Westinghouse K Building in East Pittsburgh.

Ham radio clubs participating in the centennial special event include the North Hills Amateur Radio Club in Pittsburgh — which is planning to operate from KDKA's 1930s' transmitter site, where an original tower pier still stands. A 1920s' transmitter site, in Forest Hills, will serve as another operating location. In addition to the North Hills ARC and Skyview Radio Society, other clubs taking part include the Panther Amateur Radio Club, Steel City Amateur Radio Club, the Wireless Association of South Hills, the Butler County Amateur Radio Public Service Group, and the Washington Amateur Communications Radio Club.

Individual radio amateurs will operate from their own stations, and a small group of hams is planning a portable operation from South Park in suburban Pittsburgh.

Stations will invite the public to visit, while observing the required social distancing protocols. "We amateur radio operators look forward to contacting thousands of other hams around the world to celebrate this huge milestone in the commercial broadcasting industry," said Bastone. Contact him for more information. — Thanks to ARRL Public Information Officer and Allegheny County ARES Emergency Coordinator Bob Mente, NU3Q, for providing the information for this story.

Dues are Due soon ! Jim Polewczak KG2H

With the end of the year coming up and time for me to put on my Treasurer's hat. I just want to remind you we usually get a ton of membership renewals at the September Hamfest, but you know what happened this year. The membership runs with the calendar year, and with January 1 coming up, Ten Dollars is a real steal for the year's membership. If you want to send me payment for multiple years, I will be happy to accept any number of multiple years renewals. I just want to remind you to mail in your dues to me. Please use the form below, thanks. If you have any questions, please drop me an email at KG2H@ARRL.NET

People have asked me about why the check should be made out to Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Well the simple answer is that the club's checking account has been around so long, it is still in the clubs original name. The bank has given me a hassle about changing it on the account.

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

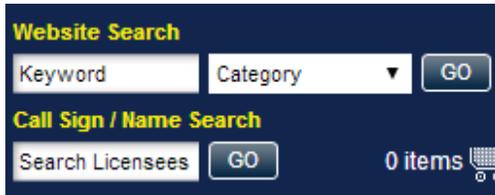
Dues are \$10 per year, Payable to **Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.**

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

Admin use – 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 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



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

Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP
SROSEN2@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 :

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