

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



November 2020 Meeting Jim KG2H

Our November meeting was held on November 9 and the topic was an introduction to DMR radio by Michael Martens KB9BVR. The intro is nice and it points out to me that you really need to do some studying to get started. With Plug-ins and Code-ID's it's a whole new language you can explore.

Upcoming December 2020 Meeting

Our usual December meeting is coming up on December 14, and we will be sending out a link to the ZOOM session shortly. Our usual December meeting is just a casual eyeball chat session and sharing cookies and treats.

You can still have your cookies, but you will have to just show them on your camera, and only you can enjoy your own dessert. It will be an interesting experience. Hopefully we can get an update from our virtual hamfest committee too. I hope to see you there.

K2DLL.groups.io Jim KG2H

A few months ago, we started a K2DLL group on groups.io. This is a meeting place where members can post items of interest and topics you would like to discuss. You can ask for assistance on a station or operating question, and I'm sure a lot of people will pitch in with advice and answers.

When we started the group we sent out invitations to all the club members, and we have had a significant number join the group. If you missed the email and wish to subscribe now, just send an email to the following: K2DLL+subscribe@groups.io

Thanks for reading this.

Field Day 2020 Results Jim KG2H

The December issue of QST is out and included is the article for this year's Field Day. Its headline is "Over 1.8 million contacts were made by nearly 19,000 participants during the most unique Field Day in recent history"

I found the most interesting paragraph in the story was the following:

"Even though the number of individual participants decreased since last year, the number of total contacts rose by 70%. Forty-four percent of contacts completed were on CW — almost double from last year. The number of CW contacts surpassed that of contacts made on phone by almost 200,000. Contacts made on digital modes comprised the remaining 20% of the total number of contacts reported."

What does that say about CW to those who claimed that CW would die when the no code licensing was introduced? I was impressed with the 20% number of digital contacts. Should the club not include a dedicated digital station next June? There are lots of interesting things to consider in this article.

I believe that our club had a good score. We show as 7,405 points and 1,113 QSO's by the 15 members of the club who submitted our club name in their entry. In 2019 our club showed 3,016 points with 791 QSO's and 16 members were listed as participating. Of course the score is not Apples to Apples because of the extra bonus points each individual earned this year, but the QSO count is Apples to Apples.

Here is our 2020 line scores (sorted by call) :

call	class	# qso	Power multiplier	operators	total points
K1RQ	2E	368	2	2	2,122
K2LK	1D	105	2	1	470
K2LM	1D	69	2	1	606
K2ZIP	1B	1	5	1	365
KC1NN	1D	33	2	1	174
KC2NXC	1D	33	2	1	182
KC2YLM	1D	10	2	1	70
KG2H	1E	76	5	1	1,010
KG5JEN	1B	9	2	1	268
N2MBX	1E	80	2	1	310
N2QFT	1D	45	2	1	140
W2BEW	1E	80	2	1	560
W2EMS	1D	55	2	1	160
W2MRD	1E	32	2	1	350
W5BN	1D	117	2	1	618
totals		1,113		16	7,405

FCC to Require Email Addresses on Applications Via ARRL news

12/02/2020

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective sometime in mid-2021. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective.

The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail.

A Report and Order (R&O) on "Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services" in WT Docket 19-212 was adopted on September 16. The new rules will go into effect 6 months after publication in the Federal Register, which hasn't happened yet, but the FCC is already strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. When an email address is provided, licensees will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses when the application is granted.

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license will have to show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. "The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence," the amended rule will state. "Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address."

Arecibo Observatory Instrument Platform Falls into Iconic Dish via ARRL news

12/01/2020

[UPDATED 2020-12-02 @1609 UTC] The 900-ton instrument platform of the 305-meter radio telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico fell some 400 feet Tuesday morning, crashing into the huge, already-damaged dish below, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported in a December 1 Tweet. "No injuries were reported," NSF said, adding that it is still assessing the situation. "Our top priority is maintaining safety." The calamity not only was a final and fatal blow for the observatory but for the people of Puerto Rico.

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.

Thanks

Membership renewals: K2EU, K2JQ, KB2CCC, KC2ODL, KD2DQQ, KD2DXO, KD2HDD, KD2JQ, KD2PZY, KD2TGV, KD2VAC, KG2H, N2EKQ, N2OKA, N2ZHS, N7SO, WA2TTP

Also I'm pleased to introduce 2 new members this month, KD2TGV - Larry Jeffers, and KD2VAC - Joe Gentile and KD2GYO - Johnnie Walker. If you hear them on the repeaters please give them a hearty welcome.

**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 _____

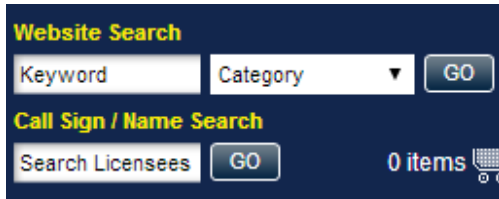
ARRL Member YES NO

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



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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