

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Upcoming January Meeting

As for our meeting, next week - it will be a short business meeting (i.e. no educational presentation) since our Virtual Hamfest will be on the 23rd. That will be the main topic of discussion.

I hope you all will attend the Zoom meeting on January 11 as this virtual hamfest will be a major milestone for the club.

For our February meeting, we will have K1TTT speak about his superstation and using it remotely without special hardware.

Virtual Hamfest Tentative schedule

Time	Subject	Speaker
9:45 – 10:00	Opening Remarks	
10:00 – 10:45	Working the Ham Radio Satellites	KX9X
10:45 – 11:00	Virtual Swapfest Session 1	
11:00 – 11:45	Division Update	N2RJ
11:45 – 1:00	Virtual Ragchew & Lunch	
1:00 – 1:45	Hardware store HF antenna	NJ1F
1:45 – 2:00	Virtual Swapfest Session 3	
2:00 – 2:45	Exotic Dxpeditons	K1XM and KQ1F
2:45 – 3:00	Virtual Swapfest Session 4	
3:00 – 3:45	Parks on the Air	N3NWV
3:45 – 4:00	Closing Remarks	

WA2MCS is SK Jim KG2H

I am sad to pass along this note I received from Fran, KD2JKT:

Hi,

I have sad news. William Mitchell, WA2MCS, passed away on November 20, 2020. Mitch was an avid Morse code ham. He enjoyed contacting people all over the world. This past year he became ill with cancer. Mitch has an Obituary on Compassionate Funeral Care website.

This is Fran, KD2JKT, his widow. We got married on October 4th at home. I enjoyed field day with Mitch. Never got the hang of it. But maybe I'll try on my own.

Mitch is a silent key now. I will miss him always. Maybe you can put a little note in the newsletter?

Thank you,

Fran

On a personal note, I have known Mitch for a good number of years as a friend and fellow club member, and I can confirm that he was a CW enthusiast. He and Fran have come to some of our meetings and I enjoyed talking with him every time. He and I never crossed paths on the airwaves, but I'm sure he had a sweet sounding tone.

Fran, if the club can help you in any way, just let us know. I do hope that you can find the time to come out and join us in Field Day.

If anyone would like to pass along condolences to Fran, you can drop me a note and I will pass along her email address. KG2H@arrl.net

FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35 Via ARRL 12/30/2020

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications." In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, "ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service." The fee proposal was contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "Ray Baum's Act."

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, "once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated."

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.

Dues are Due soon ! Jim Polewczak KG2H

With the new year starting, it's 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

I am happy to report that about 3/4 of the members have already renewed as of the end of December. I think that must be some kind of record !! Lets keep it up in January.

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 club's original name. The bank has given me a hassle about changing it on the account.

Thanks

December membership renewals: K1RQ, K2ZIP, KA2TUC, KB2STR, KC2CLK, KD2MPZ, KD2ODA, KD2QKU, KD2RQA, KF2ZR, KG5JEN, N2MBX, N2SSL, N2TOM, NJ1F, NR2T, W2MLB, W2PAS, WA2JWO, WB2NSC.

Also, we are happy to welcome Joe Coffin, KF2ZR. If you hear him on the repeaters, please say hi.

**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

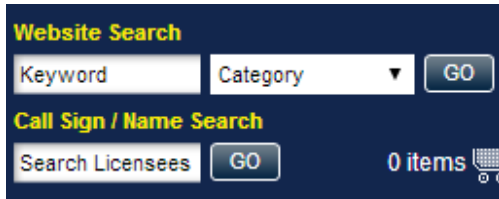
Dues are \$10 per year, Payable to **Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.**

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

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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 your ideas.
Thanks