

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

June Club Meeting

The June General meeting will be this coming Monday, Jun 14. The General meeting will start at 7:00 PM, and there will be a short business meeting preceding that at 6:30 PM. A link to the ZOOM session will be sent out later this week.

It should be an interesting meeting. There will be 3 major points of discussion.

First, since this is the June meeting, there will be an election for the officers and board members for the upcoming year. Anyone who is interested in running for an office should contact one of the existing officers beforehand. Their contact information is at the end of the newsletter.

Next and exciting is the preparations for Field Day. As you know we did not hold a remote site field day last year because of the pandemic, but we now have reserved the Fire Training Center for this year's club effort. You might be aware that the ARRL has extended last year's rule that Class D (home) stations can contact other Class D stations for credit, and that you can add club's name (Saratoga County ARA) (spelling is important) when you submit your entry.

The final item will be a discussion about the annual Hamfest. We plan on holding it this September 12, so be sure to log into the meeting to hear the details.

June VHF Contest

The ARRL's June VHF contest is this weekend. It runs from June 12, 1800Z (Saturday 2 PM eastern) to Sunday Jun 14 - 0259Z (10 PM Eastern). Logs due: 0259Z Jun 24. Full rules can be found at ARRL.ORG. With the way that 6 meters has been open lately, it will be lots of fun.

Something to do this weekend.

I am forwarding this email I received from the ARRL Members Website:

On Saturday, June 12th, a group of Amateur Radio operators will run eight "Pop Up" shortwave radio stations to help raise funds for the Bannerman's Castle Trust. The goal is to make 2,000 contacts with other ham radio operators around the world in just four hours from 1 pm to 5 pm (USA Eastern Daylight Time).

Sponsored by the Hudson River Radio Relay, the event is designed to bring attention to the Trust's "Go Fund Me" campaign that is raising money for the continued preservation of the historic Bannerman site that sits on Pollepel Island in the Hudson River near Fishkill, New York. The Relay's activities support deserving organizations such as Bannerman's Castle Trust (<https://bannermancastle.org>), which is this year's primary recipient.

One of the eight Amateur stations, N2B, will operate from the island, while the other seven "Pop Up" stations will operate from various parks in the mid-Hudson region (for a complete list of the stations, their locations and operating frequencies: <https://hudsonriverradiorelay.com/for-radio-amateurs.html>).

Radio operators that contact these Special Event stations will receive a special commemorative certificate and information on how to contribute to the Trust's fundraising campaign.

In addition to supporting the Trust, the eight Amateur Radio stations will demonstrate how the hobby encompasses "STEAM" -- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Agriculture, and Mathematics. The eight "Pop Up" stations will use four different amateur radio technologies to communicate, including voice, digital modes and traditional Morse Code.

Members of the public who visit the stations will have the opportunity to see how they operate, including the ability of "hams" make contact from virtually anywhere without reliance on any additional infrastructure, such as cell service, landlines or the Internet.

"Amateur Radio is the original social media and it has bringing the world together for over a century" said Ria Jairam, N2RJ, the Director of the Hudson River Division of the American Radio Relay League. "Ham radio operators have the ability to connect with others all over the globe, sharing their knowledge, culture and friendship -- all without the need for cell service or the Internet."

"Many have also found it a great way to 'get out of the house' during the pandemic," she added. Today, there are over 765,000 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the United States and the FCC reports a significant increase in new licensees during the pandemic

More information about the event and a link to the Go Fund Me Page can be found at: <https://hudsonriverradiorelay.com/index.html>.

ARRL Eastern New York Section
Section Manager: John K Fritze Jr, K2QY
k2qy@arrl.org

Get the 6 meter rigs dusted off !!

It's spring. It's time to start thinking about the summer 6 meter e-skip season that grace the airways. You can start seeing some openings any time now and peaking in June and July. Check the SWR on your antenna, and if a beam, that it is pointing in sync with the rotator control box. It's guaranteed to ruin your day when the antenna is 90 degrees off from where you think it's pointing. Also make sure that the 6 meter rig is still putting out full power, especially if you're running with tubes or an amplifier.

Already this month we have seen some spectacular openings from here to Europe, and also from Japan to the West Coast and even into the Mid West. Last week I was working some Europeans as late as 9 PM local.

I hope to see you on the air.

Food for Thought - Jim KG2H

Hi folks, I ran across this in one of my groups (specifically the QRP group but This applies top all.) and thought that some of you might be interested. It's kind of a long presentation, (2 hours) but you might enjoy it.

The following talk is now available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/mjquy-iVpW4>

Does price buy Performance or Satisfaction in an HF Transceiver?

Frank Howell K4FMH presents a fascinating insight into our modern HF rigs looking at their price, their performance as measured by Rob Sherwood and reviews on eham.net. Do you get what you pay for? Are expensive transceivers really worth it? Join us on this presentation to find out.

There is also a special guest appearance by Rob Sherwood himself in the Q&A section of the video - which was an unexpected bonus.

Thanks

AD2BY, KC2ODL, KD2DXQ, KF7ISY, N2OWA, N2QFT and NC2P

Welcome to our newest member, Jim AD2BY. If you hear him on the air be sure to say Hi.

East Greenbush Hamfest

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association will hold its annual Hamfest on August 21st and will feature over \$3,500 worth of giveaways and raffles! The Grand Prize will be a brand new Yaesu HF/6 meter rig! Plus, we have lots of other great prizes, including several DMR radios, a big array of accessories and gift certificates from leading Amateur Radio firms -- including ARRL, DX Engineering, MFJ, B-Tech, LDG and Wouxun.

We're also excited to announce we have a new location -- the East Greenbush Town Park -- offering a fully enclosed air conditioned building, lots of vendor and tailgating space, and ample parking. Plus, we'll have a great selection of delicious food, serving both breakfast and lunch.

This is a great opportunity to sell your extra gear -- or to pick up some great bargains for your shack. Tables are just \$10 and include an admission ticket. Reserve your table early because they go fast! Please send an email to W2RBJ@outlook.com to secure your spot now.

KJI Electronics and other vendors will also be on hand with a variety of new equipment and accessories for sale. EGARA's Hamfest runs from 8 am to 1 pm, with vendor setup starting at 7 am. Visit our [website](#) for more information and updates.

Spread the word! We look forward to seeing you August 21st!

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

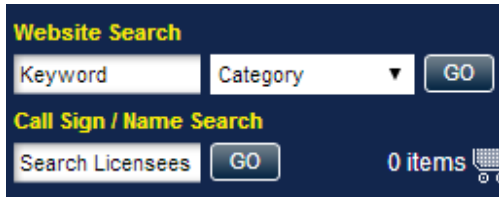
Dues are \$10 per year, Payable to **Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.**

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 your ideas.
Thanks