

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Assn. Board of Director's Meeting Nov. 8, 2021

President: Mike Levy, K2ZIP
Vice President: Peter Miller, W2BEW
Secretary: Jim McKnight, K2LM
Treasurer: Jim Polewczak, KG2H
Directors:
Fred Brown, W5BN
Fred Halley, W2EMS
Steve Rosenberg, WA2TTP
Randy Woessner, KC1NN not present
Radio Officer: Frank Frisone KA2QYE

Brian, NJ1F

Mike, K2ZIP, opened the meeting at 6:30 pm in a meeting room at the Paul E. Lent Public Safety Facility

- The minutes of the October meeting minutes were read by K2ZIP and approved.
- Treasurer's report was accepted with a motion by WA2TTP and seconded by W2EMS. The closing balance is \$20,138.

Radio Officer Report

Frank, KA2QYE, gave a radio officer report which included that the club now has a key to the fire center training facility, but we can also a smaller conference room in the Public Safety Facility.

ARES Report

Fred, W2EMS, gave a report on the ARES activities in the area. He reported that the ARRL did not have a new reporting method in place to replace the old reporting system. He reported on how he and Phil, KC2YLM, decided to handle this year's SET and the participation. He said that there may be an unannounced callup of ARES members in Saratoga, Warren, Washington, and Rensselaer Counties.

Old Business

Steve reported that the new Kenwood TS-590 G is now online at the club's remote station at Wilton EMS. At this point you do not need to schedule a time to use the station.

A virtual hamfest was discussed to be held in January, but no decision was made.

Peter again reported that he will no longer be the hamfest chairman.

New Business

Jim, K2LM, reported that the 40-year-old duplexer on the 147.00 repeater has issues and cannot be repaired. He proposed several possible choices as a replacement. Jim, KG2H, moved that the club spend no more than \$2,700 for a replacement. The motion was modified to state "that the best possible price must be found". K2LM seconded the motion. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

Frank said that the county will allow the club to place a repeater at its Halfmoon radio site but he needed an antenna for the project. He asked the club to spend up to five hundred dollars for the antenna. W2EMS made the motion and KG2H seconded it. The motion passed.

The possible location of the club's December Christmas party was discussed and possibly catering the food. Several locations were mentioned, and various members were to ask the availability of the sites.

A motion to adjourn the board meeting was made by W2BEW and seconded by WA2TTP. The board meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

General Meeting - Nov 8 - - - Who is WR2ADN?

Think about that question. The answer is at the end of the article.

The meeting was held at the "new" public safety at the county complex on County Farm Road. This was the first time we met in this Facility and it's a very nice building.

The general membership meeting began with Frank KA2QYE giving us a tour of the county's new EOC. There are positions in the room for all the county agencies, and Frank says that he would like to include a console for the Amateur's use in emergencies. That will come sometime in the near future. There is already a spare RF cable running out of the building which could be used for a 2 meter / 440 antenna.

The next Speaker was Jim McKnight K2LM. Jim told us about all the hardware this club supports. These services the club provides services not only the local amateurs, but also others far and wide.

For voice repeaters we have 147.00 (Spruce) 147.24 (Lake Nancy), 147.03 (Fraker Mt), 448.225 which links those repeaters together and we also operate 147.36 (Lake Nancy). This provides us total coverage of the county for use in emergency situations. We also link into Steve's (WA2TTP) repeater in Middleburgh.

We operate propagation beacons on 144, 220, and 903 Mhz. Jim regularly receives reception reports from stations far away thanking us for providing these beacons.

Additionally, we support a D-Star beacon using the WA2UMX callsign. (You did know that the club has 2 calls, K2DLL AND WA2UMX, right? That's another story)

As if that's not enough, we have an APRS digipeter in Wilton, a remote HF station in Wilton and Echolink and Winlink presence on the internet.

The majority of the blood, sweat tears and labor to maintain this equipment falls on the shoulders of K2LM with assistance from WA2TTP. We can't thank them enough

Oh yeah, did you figure out who WR2ADN is ? That was our original RACES callsign back in 1975. The repeater operated on an output of 147.00 and an input of 145.50 which was an official RACES frequency sanctioned by the FCC.

Christmas is Coming!

And you've all been good boy and girl hams. You deserve a new addition to your hamshack.

The following ham gear is still available from the estate of a former club member (SK). If you're interested in any of the items, please give me a call and I'll forward your offer to the family.

Peter - W2BEW (518) 893-7484

INSIGNIA Desktop Microphone NS -PAUM50	Asking \$15
ALINCO Switching Power Supply DM-330MV	Asking \$100
Yaesu Dynamic Hand Microphone MH-31 B8	Asking \$15
Large desktop microphone	Asking \$10
MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II - Model MFJ-948	Asking \$85
MFJ VersaTuner III - Model MFJ962D	Asking \$150
AMERITRON AL-811 HF Power Linear Amp	Asking \$600

December Holiday Party

SCARA's monthly in December is on Monday December 13. Because of scheduling conflicts with our normal meeting area, we are changing our meeting area. We will be meeting at the Trinity United Methodist Church located at 155 Ballard Road, Gansevoort zip 12831. Please plan on arriving about 6:30 PM.

You can get there by exiting the Northway at exit 16 (Ballard Road) and heading east (towards route 50). The building is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east from the exit, on the right side of the road.

We will not be having a formal program. Instead, the club will be providing food to help ring in the holidays. We will be providing subs, chips, soda and water. Since we will be providing the food, we will ask you to RSVP to me with the count in your party. Please email me at KG2H@ARRL.NET to let me know how many to plan for. Spouses and significant others are welcome to come. (maybe we can convince them to get their ham license). We hope you will enjoy eyeball QSO's and that everyone will have a good time. I hope to hear from many of you.

SCARA 2021 Hamfest is in the books. New Hamfest Chair needed for future fests.

The 35th annual SCARA Hamfest was a success. After a period of Covid uncertainty, we held the event on Sept 12, and more that 325 people attended - and had a great time!

Now I (Peter Miller - W2BEW) have decided to call it quits as hamfest chairman. If there is to be a hamfest in 2022 and beyond, some new blood is needed. There are many details to watch over, and of course, I'll guide the new leader(s) along the way.

Planning and initial contacts should begin soon, because many vendors have told us they plan their hamfest participation early in the new year. We'll need to encourage them to attend or donate prizes while they're still making those plans. Club preparations can be quite leisurely for a few months, but ramp up in the final weeks.

Please consider joining the SCARA Hamfest team in 2022 and beyond. Then let SCARA president Mike-K2ZIP (levymike@aol.com) or Peter-W2BEW (petermil@verizon.net) know if you're willing to help lead us to the next SCARA Hamfest. We have a long tradition of great hamfests, and it's very satisfying to know you've had a part in it.

We're hoping to hear from you. 73 - W2BEW

The Reverse Beacon Network aka RBN – NJ1F

What is the Reverse Beacon Network? Well, their website <http://www.reversebeacon.net/> describes what on the main page which I have copied the following from.

The Reverse Beacon Network is a revolutionary new idea. Instead of beacons actively transmitting signals, the RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well. The Reverse Beacon Network is a revolutionary new idea. Instead of beacons actively transmitting signals, the RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well.

So why should you care? Well, to begin with, you can see band openings in near-real time on an animated map. You can call a quick CQ, and see which reverse beacons hear you, and how strong you are. [Try It!](#)

NOTE this is a four page article has a lot of graphics and is geared to the beginner. If you wish to download Brian's entire article, you can use this link:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!ArgddaLFcULCgQACnj0IhWbA8h3G?e=6V0pU3>

Thanks

K2EU, K2JQ, KD2JQ, K2DXO, KD2FKH and W2ZNA

Welcome to John W2ZNA a new member. If you hear him on the air, please give him a hearty hello.

REMINDER

We had a ton of members who gave us their membership dues for next year while they were at the hamfest.

For those of you who missed the opportunity at the hamfest please use the form below to send me your renewals. Remember that I will gladly accept multiple years of dues, at only \$10 per year.

If you are unsure of when your dues expire, please drop me an email to KG2H@ARRL.NET. I plan on sending out individual emails in December giving everyone their current status, so keep an eye out for it.

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 _____

Henry J. Christopher, KB2STR SK

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The family of Henry J. Christopher are saddened by his passing on November 5, 2021.

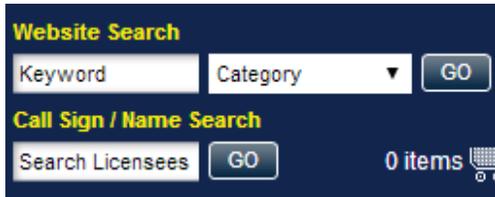
Henry was born on September 12, 1942 in Pittsfield, MA, the son of the late Joseph J. Christopher and Marion Langlois Young. He was a 1960 graduate of Pittsfield High School. Upon graduation, he entered the United States Marine Corps, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. He continued his Marine Corp career after leaving active duty in the reserves. In 1973, Henry began a career with New York State and became a police officer working for the Capital Police in Albany, NY, the Parkway Police stationed at Belmont Lake State Park on Long Island, and state Park Officer with Saratoga SPA State Park in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Henry loved traveling with his family to Florida to visit Walt Disney World for the past forty-six years. He also enjoyed a hobby of amateur radios and was a member of the Saratoga R.A.C.E.S Club.

Henry is survived by his beloved wife, Kathleen Christopher who had 49 fun-filled years together; son, Shawn Christopher (Donna Millington); a beautiful grandson, Daniel Christopher; brother-in-law, William Belz and many friends who will miss his presence. He is preceded in death by his sister, Kathleen Belz.

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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:

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levymike@AOL.COM

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PETERMIL@verizon.net

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K2LM@nycap.rr.com

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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 your ideas.
Thanks