

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

December 2021 Meeting

On December 13 we had our monthly meeting in a slightly different forum. We got together at the Trinity United Methodist Church on Ballard Road for a holiday gathering. We had 23 members and their guests sit down and enjoy a meal and just eyeball QSO's. Thanks to Steve WA2TTP for securing the space for us. A good time was had by all. Hopefully we will be able to do this again next year.



January club meeting

We are resuming the club meetings for the new year, by reverting (temporarily) to the ZOOM format. The alarming rise in COVID infection rates caused the board to take this action. We will have the meeting on January 10 starting with the board meeting at 6:30PM. A link will be mailed out to all the membership.

We really need your participation in this meeting. The following are some notes from Mike K2ZIP for things we need to achieve starting at the January meeting.

I think we need to:

- * Develop programs for our monthly meetings in 2022
- * Plan for the March SwapFest (COVID permitting)
- * Plan for our Hamfest (COVID permitting and assuming that W2BEW doesn't rescind his retirement as Hamfest Chair)
- * Coordinate Field Day 2022
- * Organize at least one special event station this year (maybe in October and related to the Battle of Saratoga or maybe one related to Track season).
- * Identify new public service activities that SCARA can be part of.
- * Increase our ARES footprint and publicize our capabilities more than we have.
- * Other events/activities of interest to the membership

We also need to think of some new ways to attract budding hams to the hobby — as well as get those that have been licensed for years back into the game. I believe there are about 30 or so different ways to use (and enjoy) ham radio, so why not create an environment where everyone can try something new and get excited (or re-excited) about being on the air.

Just my thoughts on the January 2022 agenda but I am open for suggestions, additions, and deletions.

Mike K2ZIP

WSJT-X Version 2.5.4 GA Released

WSJT-X 2.5.4, a bug-fix release correcting flaws in release 2.5.3, is now available as a General Availability (GA) release. Changes from v2.5.3 are:

- WSJT-X: Repair a defect that caused occasional crashes when in QSO with stations using nonstandard callsigns.
- MAP65: Correct a bug that prevented "Best-fit Delta phi" solutions from being displayed to the user.

Links to WSJT-X 2.5.4 installation packages for Windows and Linux are available at physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjitx.html, with the installation package for macOS being added soon, thanks to John Nelson, G4KLA.

-- thanks to Joe Taylor, K1JT

UPCOMING CONTESTS -- THINGS TO DO

For those of you who operate digital modes, the **ARRL RTTY Roundup** is this weekend. The event begins at 1800 UTC Saturday, January 8, and concludes 2359 UTC Sunday, January 9. Any digital mode is allowed, with entry categories for RTTY-Only, Digital-Only (includes all non-RTTY modes), and Mixed Mode.

For complete rules and more information, visit arrl.org/rtty-roundup.

The first major VHF contest of the year, **The ARRL January VHF Contest**, takes place on January 15 and 16. Operation on any amateur band 50 MHz and above is allowed in any authorized mode. Whether you prefer CW, phone, or one of the newer digital modes, there are plenty of ways for hams of all experience levels to participate in the event.

There is a slight change in the rules to the Rover categories for all ARRL-sponsored VHF contests beginning with this event. Previously, Rovers were defined as operating from more than one 4-digit grid square. Starting in 2022, single-grid rovers will be allowed in the contest. Rover stations are reminded that subsequent contacts with stations on the same band made from the same grid square will not count toward the final score, with no penalties assessed for duplicate contacts.

Complete rules can be found at arrl.org/january-vhf

NEWS, PRESS RELEASES, AND GENERAL INTEREST

AC Log 7.0.3 & New Versions of All Contest Logging Software Released

Scott, N3FJP, announced that AC Log 7.0.3 has been released, along with updates to the popular N3FJP contest logging software. One of the major changes in the software is the introduction of a new color scheme, "Dark Theme," intended to help reduce eye strain during nighttime operating. Users now also have the ability to save color schemes, which are easily recalled in any of the N3FJP suite of programs.

Other new features include increased functionality for rig control on newer Yaesu radios (such as the FTDX10), the ability to disable the audible alert when you're spotted on the cluster, and an option to display 24-hour local time display in AC Log.

Visit n3fjp.com for additional details and download links.

WRTC 2022

Brian NJ1F sends us a reminder That the World Radio Team Championship is set up for the 2022 year. You can find further information at this link: <https://www.wrtc2022.it/en/>

[18/12/2021]

Announcing a first time ever award, dedicated to the promotion of the organization of the WRTC 2022 – “World Radio Team Championship”.

Beginning on 1 January through 10 July 2022, over 100 Italian operators will activate the special WRTC callsigns, one for each Italian call area.

Special WRTC callsigns will be active also during some contests. The final activity will be during the IARU HF Contest 2022.

QSO totals and the award hunter's scores will be displayed in real-time on [wrtc2022.it/award](https://www.wrtc2022.it/award). Each hunter will be able to download the award in digital format at the end of the radio event.

Read the award rules [here](#)



REMINDER

We had a ton of members who gave us their membership dues for 2022 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.

At the end of December, I emailed each of the members their status information, and I am pleased that I have received so many responses so quickly in the early weeks of January. In case you missed it or if you are unsure of when your dues expire, please drop me an email to KG2H@ARRL.NET.

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 _____

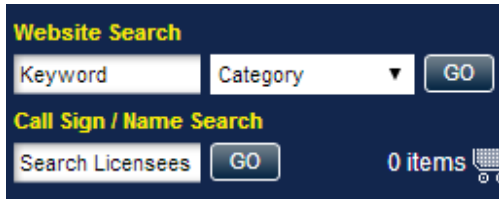
ARRL Member YES NO

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