

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

February Meeting

On February 14, we had our very own Fred, W2EMS, give us a primer on using Winlink. Winlink is a very useful tool to enable hams to send email via amateur radio. It can be very useful especially in emergency situations. A preformatted email for passing traffic can be used to fulfill the reporting formats that government and health officials expect to see. Other non-emergency uses can also be sent, for example, hams simply communicating with one another. Naturally, just like any other ham related traffic, you CANNOT use Winlink for business purposes.

He demonstrated how to send an email, and walked us thru using the program to see where the message is and receiving confirmation that the message has been delivered. It is something that I personally have not seen before, and therefore I was avidly following the presentation. If you missed the presentation, you missed a good one.

Upcoming March Meeting

I am pleased to announce that we will be having our traditional March Swapfest to be held in person (!!) for the first time after the last 2 years in COVID isolation. We will be holding it on **Saturday March 19** at its usual location in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building at 50 West High Street in Ballston Spa. The doors will officially open at 8:00 AM so come on out and get an eyeball QSO with your fellow hams.

If you have some items you wish to give a new home to, bring them along also. Tables will be available until they're all used up. We will have to close down the swapfest at 11:00 AM so that we can ready the room for a VE Test session at Noon.

Test Session requirement.

If you are going to take a test session for either a new or upgraded ham license, here are a few things you **MUST** bring along.

A copy of your current FCC license. We need to attach the license copy to the paperwork when you upgrade. It will have your FRN number which you need to have to fill out Form 605. If you don't have a copy of your license you can visit <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system> to obtain one.

If you are unlicensed, the FCC requires that you have a FRN. You can obtain a FRN in just a few minutes before the exam session by visiting <https://www.fcc.gov/rofrn> You simply apply for the FRN on line (you will receive it immediately), and you will have it with you when you come to the test session.

You need an email address to enter on the FCC form 605. This is the address that the FCC will use to communicate with you.

Another form of ID, a driver's license is great, or any other form of ID. If you don't have a driver's license, (perhaps you are too young for the DMV) the ARRL suggests something as simple as a library card, or even a piece of mail addressed to you at your residence.

A pen and pencil (with a good eraser). The pen is for filling out the FCC form 605, and the pencil is to fill out the bubble answer sheet.

The proper testing fee. Currently it is \$15.

Your WITS. It is not a hard exam, so don't get too anxious about it.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the exam start time in order to fill out the paperwork, and for the VE's (Volunteer Examiners) to review it.

Another thing to bear in mind, is that for many of the testing sessions, the VE team will have alternate versions of the various exam elements available for you to try a retake of the exam. If you do desire to take an alternate version, we must charge you an additional testing fee.

If you **DO NOT NEED** to take any alternate versions, you may take the next higher level of exam for **NO** additional costs. For example, if you take and pass the Technician exam, you may take the General exam if you so desire, and there will be no additional fees.

I have witnessed a few people who have come into the session unlicensed, and walk away with the Extra Class license.

GOOD LUCK.

The Toy Box

Moving - Ham Radio equipment for sale

Antenna tuners

Collins (can't find a model #) - \$300
Drake MN4 - \$300
MFJ versa tuner 2 - \$50

HF Receivers

Collins R388/URR - \$800 /BO
Collins 75A-4 - 800/BO
Drake R4A - \$300/BO
Drake SW4A-\$300/BO
Hammarlund RBG-2- \$250/BO
Swan-350 & 117XC power supply and speaker (good receiver , not sure about transmitter) - \$350/BO

Transmitters

Collins 32V (I think 3) with tube kit and cabinet- needs restoration \$150
Collins KWS-1 complete- needs restoration - \$1500

Speakers

2- Drake MS-4 speakers - \$50 / ea
Collins (Can't find model #) - BO

Monitor Scopes

Heathkit SB610 - \$150
Heathkit HO-10 - \$75

Misc

B&K tube tester - \$350

mhooker1@nycap.rr.com
(518)631-0775

CQ Newsroom stories include:

BBC Brings Back Shortwave for Ukraine - The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is reviving its European shortwave service in order to provide news and information to listeners in Ukraine who may be cut off from internet service but have access to portable shortwave receivers

Cluster Spots From Warring European Nations/Regions Blocked - DX Summit has announced that it is blocking posts from all countries and regions involved in the current war in Ukraine, partially at the request of the Ukrainian government and partially of its own accord

Ham Radio in Ukraine Shut Down in Face of Russian Invasion – 30-day ban began February 24; could be extended

ARRL Seeks Ham Exemption from New Forest Service Fees – Repeater on Forest Service land could be hit with \$1400 annual fees in addition to rent already paid

3Y0J Bouvet DXpedition Shaping Up for Next January – Group sets January 6, 2023 as departure date for 44-day voyage, slated to include 22 days on #2 most-wanted DX entity

Plans Firming Up for Solo DXpedition to Crozet – Third on the most-wanted list is Crozet; F6CUK plans to arrive around Christmas of 2022

Paging Arnold Schwarzenegger... Self-described "heretic" solar researchers say timing of "termination event" formally ending Cycle 24 points to better-than-predicted conditions during Cycle 25

Having a Blast on the Sun! – The largest solar flare ever observed in a single image together with the full disc of the sun was photographed February 15 by the NASA/ESA Solar Orbiter spacecraft

Milestones: Heil Sound Sold to Employees – CEO Ash Levitt and Operations Director Steve Warford are microphone company's new owners

ARRL Board Elects New Treasurer, Re-Elects Other Officers - John R. Sager, WJ7S, succeeds Rick Niswander, K7GM, who had previously announced that he would not seek another term

Supply Chain Issues Prompt Amateur Satellite Delay - AMSAT has withdrawn its GOLF-TEE satellite from the manifest for NASA's ELaNa-46 educational satellite launch mission

Ham Charged With Reporting False Emergencies, Making On-Air Threats – Pennsylvania amateur accused of falsely reporting weather emergencies, threatening to harm fellow hams and bomb public buildings

Details on these stories and more are online in the CQ Newsroom at: <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/>

(ed note: I often include news items from the ARRL. This month, I decided to be well rounded, so I note the above news items from CQ)



REMINDER

We had a ton of members who gave us their membership dues for 2022 while they were at the hamfest last September.

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. Even Better yet, see me at the Swapfest on March 19, and give me your dues in person !!

As of the end of February, we had 88 currently paid members and 36 members who haven't sent in dues for several years. I will be pruning the mailing list at the end of March.

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.

Thanks.

NJ1F, K1RQ, and W2XM

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 _____

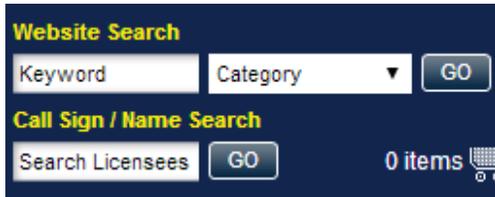
ARRL Member YES NO

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