

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## June 13, 2022 Meeting

This will be a great meeting We have a lot of things going on. The Board meeting starts at 6:30 PM, and the General membership meeting will begin at 7:00 PM

This is our last meeting before we take a summer break for July and August. On the agenda are the following items:

- The main speaker for the evening will be Joe Carcia who lead us on a ZOOM tour of ARRL headquarters. Joe will be joining us via ZOOM and there will be ample time to allow for questions for Joe.
- Since this is our annual business meeting we will be have officer elections for the upcoming year.
- I'm sure that we will be having some discussions concerning Field Day, on June 25 and 26, with setup on the evening of June 24.

We hope to see you there.

## Reminder—Club elections

Just a reminder, that our June meeting is the annual meeting where we elect a new slate of officers for the next year. I hope that you will consider running for some position. The positions are President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and 4 positions of General Board member. I guarantee you that no one is going to be upset if we have some competition for any one of these seats.

If you are interested in helping the club, please contact any of the existing board members. Their e-mail addresses are on the last page of the newsletter.

**Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association**  
Announcing our 36th annual

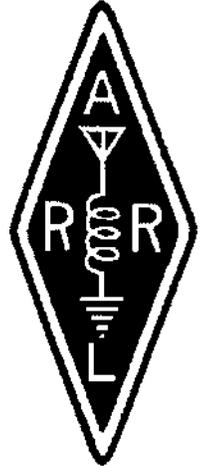
# HAMFEST 2022

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - Gates open at 7:00 am

Saratoga County Fair Grounds, 162 Prospect St, Ballston Spa, NY  
12020

Only \$10 per person includes door prize drawings, plus 8'x8' "tailgate" space

- Lots of used and new ham gear for sale
- VE Test Session at 8:30 am off site at the Cornell Co-Op Extension 50 West High St, Ballston Spa, NY
- Demonstrations: To be announced
- Fox-hunt on the fairground property
- Delicious Food served all day
- Many nearby Non-Ham attractions for family members



Directions:

- I-87 to Exit 12
- West on Rt 67 to Ballston Spa
- At intersection of Rts 50 & 67, follow 50 North; look for HAMFEST signs
- In village, turn left at Citgo station on Prospect Street; up hill on left

Talk-In

K2DLL Repeater System  
147.000 or 147.240  
PL = 91.5 Hz.

GPS Coordinates

43.007438 ° -73.855821 °

Watch for updates at: [www.K2DLL.ORG](http://www.K2DLL.ORG)  
Hamfest Sponsors



*The DX Store*

No BS. Just good old fashioned Customer Service  
Since 2005



## W2AKS (sk) Gear



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. (All prices are BEST OFFER.)

Peter - W2BEW (518) 893-7484

INSIGNIA Desktop USB Mic NS -PAUM50	Asking \$10 obo
Yaesu/Vertex Hand Microphone MH-31 B8	Asking \$25 obo
Yaesu MD-100 desktop microphone	Asking \$125 obo
MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II - Model MFJ-948	Asking \$100 obo
MFJ VersaTuner III - Model MFJ962D	Asking \$200 obo
AMERITRON AL-811 HF Power Linear Amp	Asking \$675 obo



## Hamvention 2022 the Return

Brian NJ1F

After two years of not happening because of COVID 19 the, Dayton Hamvention was back in a very big way. According to the Hamvention website the official attendance at Hamvention 2022 was **31,367**.

Susan and my Hamvention trip started a bit later than planned because of a couple of work-related issues I needed to complete. We were on the road shortly after noon on Thursday. While on the New York Thruway I noticed a car that looked familiar. It turned out it was our niece who was traveling to Syracuse. Other than the usual construction and rush hour delays our travel to the Hope Hotel & Richard C Holbrooke Conference Center was uneventful. We arrived shortly after 11 pm and while checking in was greeted by several ham friends who were making their way to the contest super suite for free pizza.

This was the first year that the Contest University, related dinners and activities were being held at the Hope Hotel instead of the Dayton Crown Plaza. This was a welcome change as the hotel had plenty of free parking, and is safe as it is located next to one of the entrances to Wright Patterson Airforce Base.

Friday morning, we had the breakfast buffet with several Hams friends before heading to Hamvention. Another first this year was a free shuttle bus service which ran continuously between the Hope Hotel and the main gate of Hamvention. Tim K3LR and DX Engineering arranged this awesome service, which we used both days.



We did a quick tour of the indoor commercial building to check out what new goodies were being introduced. Highlights: Icom unveiled a new solid state HF amplifier, Elecraft didn't have anything new but was showing the K4 and the KPA-1500 amp. They have cleared up the wait lists. Yeasu was again doing their hat give away and the Begali booth was packed with folks testing out their CW keys. The buildings were packed so we went to the flea market area to see what interesting things were being offered. I noticed that there seemed to be more stuff in the Flea market than previously. I mentioned this to a friend who is an avid flea marketer and he said because Ebay and other online sites are now sending out 1099 forms for all sales. The Flea Market has a bit of a reputation which it did uphold, muddy walk ways thanks to recent rains.

The food offerings since the Hamvention moved from the Hara Arena have become outstanding. There was a wide selection of offerings from various food trucks and booths. I opted for a pulled pork sandwich and a couple bottles of water. Then we took another walk around the Flea Market and thru the buildings that we missed in the morning. We headed back to the Hope Hotel a little after 3 pm. Carsten DM9EE sat near me, we had a great eyeball QSO. He spotted a drive thru beer store, (they are very common in Ohio) while the bus was stopped at a traffic light.

Friday evening, we visited the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting located at what used to be the Bethany Relay Station. The extensive antenna arrays which occupied one square mile have been removed to make way for many soccer, football, and baseball fields. The original building which housed the transmitters is now the museum and some of the antenna switch gear is still behind the building. The museum exhibits and tour offered plenty technical, non-technical information and history. The website is [www.voamuseum.org](http://www.voamuseum.org)



VOA Master Control



Power Grid Selector



Model of Antennas

We made it back to the Hope Hotel in time for the reunion performance of the "Spurious Emissions Band". The band members are Ward NOAX, Sean KX9X, Nancy N9NCY, Scott W4PA, and Kirk K4RO. They played a variety of popular songs which they had changed the words to appeal to the amateur radio audience. Their Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162578843845678/> I am sure that a video of the complete performance will be posted to YouTube in the coming weeks. Here is a link to "Climber John" <https://youtu.be/Xh7VOJixyVE> After their performance, per tradition the North Coast Contest Club sponsored a pizza in the "Contest Super Suite" which was hopping with plenty of eyeball qso's and a few 807s.



Spurious Emissions Band

Saturday morning, we again had breakfast and took the bus to the Hamvention and started in the buildings. The temperature and humidity were noticeably higher. The weather forecast was calling for severe thunder storms in the afternoon. We continued to walk around until Susan said that she was not feeling well. Fortunately, we were very close to one of the medical aid stations where Susan was checked out and quickly recovered in their cooling room. The Xenia Fire and Rescue and Kettering Hospital nursing staff were awesome. We spent the rest of the afternoon at the Hope hotel.

Saturday evening was the Contest Dinner and CQWW Contesting Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. John K1AR was the Master of Ceremonies, after a moment of silence for the contesters who became silent keys in the past year. John drew 4 tickets for grand prizes, IC-7610, IC-7300, IC-705 and an autographed rookie card of the evening's dinner speaker NK7U Joe Rudi. John did a contest to see who was the longest licensed ham in the room. Hams licensed for 20 years or more please standup, very few were seated. Then 30, 40, 50, 60 and finally at 70 Jack W1WEF was the only Ham in attendance left standing.

After dinner, John started the first round of door prizes before introducing Joe Rudi NK7U. Joe's talk was about his ham radio hobby and his career as a professional baseball player for the A's and Red Sox. He spoke about traveling with the team and taking a HF station on the road as he would rather get on HF then go out for beers after the game. John then drew more door prizes before announcing this year's contesting hall of fame inductees, Craig K9CT and Dave KM3T. After their induction and speeches, John then continued drawing for the remaining prizes. It turns out that my friend, Ed N2HX won the autographed baseball card which was presented by Joe to him.

After dinner many adjourned to the Contest Super Suite or to the Kansas City Contest Club pileup copying contest. Unfortunately, due to technical issues the pileup contest had to be called off this year. The Yankee Clipper Contest Club sponsored the 11 pm pizza.

Sunday, we had an uneventful drive back to Saratoga Springs New York. We already have our hotel room booked and are looking forward to next year's Hamvention.

Susan K1RQ and Brian NJ1F

## Good Information from the ARRL

### FCC Application Fee Instructions

#### FCC \$35 Amateur Application Fees Effective April 19, 2022

The FCC released a [Public Notice](#) on March 23, 2022, stating that the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 application filings, are **effective April 19, 2022**. The Federal Communications Commission's authority to impose and collect fees is mandated by Congress.

The \$35 application fee applies to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.

Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees.

**VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams should not collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions.** The FCC fee must be paid online directly to the FCC not to the VE team or organization processing the application form. VEC and VE team licensing procedures are unchanged. New applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES [Payer FRN System](#) (easier to use but will only be available temporarily) or the CORES FRN Registration system ([CORES - Log-in](#)). CORES payment system [information](#).

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each qualifying candidate. The candidate will have **10 calendar days**, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or, in very rare instances, an explanation for why the application was dismissed or denied. The link will be valid for 30 days.

Candidates do not have to wait for the FCC email to pay the fee. They can look up their application in the FCC application search system using their FRN: <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/ApplicationSearch/searchAppl.jsp>

If the candidate has a pending application, that means the VEC has submitted the application to the FCC, and the fee can be paid by logging into the CORES system.

If an applicant fails to pay within the 10-day window, the application will be dismissed by the FCC. The application will have to be refiled to the FCC which will restart the 10-day window. Exam candidates do not have to retest if the 10-day payment window is missed. An application can be refiled to the FCC, by the coordinating VEC, at any time before the CSCE expires. Contact the VEC listed on your CSCE to have the application refiled to the FCC.

Per usual procedures, examinees that pass multiple exams at one session, will have one application transmitted to the FCC reflecting the highest level license class earned. Again, our VEC procedures have not changed. The new license candidates have an extra step before the license is issued. VE teams can point candidates to our [FCC Application Fee](#) webpage. Our new ARRL VEC CSCEs also include information about the application fee and points candidates to the webpage. The FCC rule pertaining to CSCEs will not change. CSCE credit will continue to be valid for 365 days, starting from the date of issuance.

Additionally, the FCC stated that the fee for applications processed and dismissed will not be refundable. This includes vanity requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign. However, returned applications that are missing information will not require an additional fee, if the missing information is submitted to the FCC within the proper amount of time.

The FCC staff has suggested that applicants for vanity call signs should first ensure the call signs requested are available and eligible for their operator class and area, and then request as many call signs as the form allows to maximize their chances of receiving a call sign.

If paying a fee for an application filed by a VEC organization, please use the CORES [Payer FRN System](#) (easier to use) or CORES FRN Registration system ([CORES - Login](#)). CORES payment system [information](#).

For license applicants filing online directly with the FCC in the ULS [License Manager System](#), if a payment is required, the system will automatically open a page asking how the applicant wants to pay and will walk the applicant through the payment process.

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### **Fees effective April 19, 2022**

The FCC fee must be paid online directly to the FCC not to the VE team or organization processing the application form.

### **FEE FILING GUIDE:**

#### **INDIVIDUALS**

**\$35 FEE:** new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.

**NO FEE:** administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign and license cancellation.

#### **AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS**

**\$35 FEE:** new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.

**NO FEE:** administrative updates, such as a change of name, change of trustee, mailing or email address, modification applications to request a sequentially issued call sign and license cancellation.

[Español - Instrucciones de la tarifa de solicitud de la FCC](#) - updated April 25

FCC Registration Help:

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/publicHome.do?help=true>

Personal Service and Amateur Application Fees - Fee Filing Guide:

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/systems-utilities/universal-licensing-system/wireless-fees/personal-service-and-amateur>

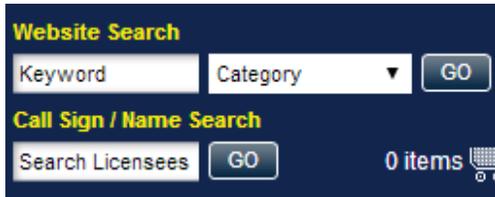
To access CORES with a (Payer) FRN:

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/paymentFrnLogin.do>

FCC CORES Video Tutorials:

<https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fcc-registration-system-cores/commission-registration-system-video-tutorials>

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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