

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

June 13, 2022 Meeting

This was 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 was Joe Carcia who lead us on a ZOOM tour of ARRL headquarters.
- Since this is our annual business meeting we had officer elections for the upcoming year. The current slate of offices were re-nominated, and duly elected to serve another year of their sentences.
- We had some discussions concerning Field Day, on June 25 and 26, with setup on the evening of June 24.

Sept 12, 2022 Meeting

We had our meeting at Fire Training Center, and upon arrival we found that our meeting was in conflict with some other scheduled fire company training. Upon further investigation we discovered that we had been preempted for the remainder of the year. We quickly regrouped and held the meeting on picnic tables on the lawn. The topic of the meeting was the results of the hamfest which we held on the previous day. Suggestions were made for next year, The biggest suggestion was to change the date next year from Sunday to Saturday. We subsequently confirmed with the fairgrounds to reserve Saturday September 9. Mark your calendars now for next year. We are also planning on holding our exam schedule directly on the fairgrounds.

The results of the hamfest were financially more successful from last year, however attendance was down a bit.

K2DLL Field Day, June 2022

Summary:

Entry received at: 2022-07-01 19:32:53
Call Used: K2DLL GOTA Station Call: (NONE) ARRL/RAC Section: ENY
Class: 3A
Participants: 14 Club/Group Name: Saratoga County ARA
Power Source(s): Generator, Solar
Power Multiplier: 2X
Preliminary Total Score: 2,908

Bonus Points:

100% emergency power	300
Media Publicity	100
Public location	100
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day message	100
Formal messages handled (10 x 10, max of 100)	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site visit by invited served agency	100
Entry submitted via web	50
Total bonus points	1,050

Score Summary:

Submitted by: Jim Polewczak, KG2H kg2h@outlook.com

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW	Digital	Phone	
80m	63	41	-	
40m	20	58	43	
20m	19	1	88	
15m	125	3	12	
10m	-	-	12	
6m	-	57	-	
TOTAL	227	160	155	
Total Points	454	320	155	929

Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 1,858

QSO Points + Bonus Points = 2,908



SET exercise October 2022 (contact Fred W2EMS)

This year, our ENY Section level Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be similar to last year, which put us in the top 10 sections nationally (as listed in QST). As we did last year, we will expand our ENY SET to a two week period. The goal is to familiarize or reacquaint operators in the section with formal message traffic and to encourage the use of digital transmission as well as voice nets.

Radiograms and NTS are really applicable, but the fact is that the Radiogram is the standard message form. We all should know how to use it. If there were to be some large-scale disaster/emergency situation, we may find that Radiograms would be used for formal messaging especially between us and other ARES groups. We may particularly find that NTS is useful for sending/receiving health and welfare messages to other areas.

Based on that, we will base the ENY SET on receiving and sending formal written messages using the Radiogram and ICS 213 formats (more on that in a minute). Since this will be a learning experience, we will designate October 1 through October 15 as the initial ENY SET period. This is to allow maximum participation as well as to spread the higher than usual traffic activity over more than one or two days. Counties who plan to do a countywide SET on the traditional first Saturday of October can incorporate this into their planning. Others may use the entire period to exchange traffic, though a single day makes the exercise a bit more realistic. Either way, EC's should submit an annual SET report to ARRL (copied to KM2O) as usual. Each county EC should schedule their own exercise period. Also, Districts may coordinate a consolidated period if desired. Decisions on scheduling should be based on involving as many members as possible.

Here is the suggested SET format:

1) During a regularly scheduled or special net, the County EC or designee should prepare and transmit a drill message to be copied by all operators. This should ask operators to prepare and send a formal message back to the EC or designee. The returned message should then be sent to the EC or designee within the extended period using voice, CW or digital via NTS/RRR nets, sessions of the county nets or other means. Return message content is not critical. If a simulated emergency message is sent, however, please indicate by using the first word DRILL. It could also include something like ALL LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATING NORMALLY. The key is that all should be properly formatted Radiogram messages.

2) The EC or designee should compile the following information:

- Number of participants receiving and sending traffic
- Method of transmission of received traffic with totals for VOICE or DIGITAL.
- Total score (based on 5 points per received VOICE message, 10 points for each received DIGITAL message. Also add a score for method of final transmission by the EC or designee: 50 points VOICE, 100 points DIGITAL, BONUS add 100 additional points for use of a tactical Winlink address -see below) This is independent of the ARRL SET report.

3) Between October 15 and 18, the EC or designee should prepare a properly formatted ICS-213 with the above information and transmit it to the following: KM2O (SEC) and WO2H (STM). Both are available on Winlink as well as traditional NTS means. NOTE: If the tactical address ENYSEC is used in Winlink instead of KM2O, give your group the 100 point bonus mentioned above. You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of the message via NTS/RRR when received.

The messages can be passed using HF or VHF/UHF. Calling special county nets to handle local traffic for relay to NTS/RRR nets is encouraged, but using regular nets over the two weeks is fine as well.

You can check in to the New York Public Operations Net at 5PM, the New York State Phone Traffic and Emergency Net at 6PM, or the Second Region Net at 6:30PM, all on 3925 every day. The Capital District Traffic Net meets daily on 147.330 (146.2 PL) at 6:30 PM. The Hudson Valley Net meets at 7:30 PM on 146.970 (100 PL). A good suggestion is to have your ops listen to these nets to become familiar with how to send radiograms. There is also reference material online.

IMPORTANT: The above scoring counts for ENY purposes only and should be sent via Winlink/NTS as noted above. Remember that the exercise should also be scored for ARRL and reported separately using their format. Use SET reporting forms at: <http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms> (use Form A, Form B and SET Scorecard at this site for ARRL purposes)

Looking forward to another stellar performance by ENY counties!

73

Dave KM2O

Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon

The annual Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon is scheduled for **Sunday, October 16th**.

We need a few radio operators and other support folks to ensure a successful event. Please email Fred Halley at W2EMS@ARRL.NET if you are able to assist with this event.

Upcoming Club Meetings

Due to scheduling conflicts we will not be meeting at the Fire Training Center in October, November, and December.

Right now, we are planning on Zoom meetings in October (Oct 10) and November (Nov 14). Speaker arrangements will be confirmed and the members notified closer to those dates.

December Meeting will be a Holiday Gathering, at the same location we held it last year, the Trinity United Methodist Church at 155 Ballard Road near Northway exit 16. Further details will be announced closer to the date.

Thanks

W1LJF, K2ZIP, KB2ADF, N2ZHS, W2MRD

Welcome to new members Joe KK6MUS, Bob WB2BJW, Linda KC2CZH, Lily, KD2YDN, Brian unassigned, Al Unassigned

Mark your calendars for next year's hamfest

It's **SATURDAY -- NOT SUNDAY -- September 9, 2023**
at the Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa.

Don't forget!

Welcome to the New York State QSO Party

The 2022 NYQP will take place on the third weekend in October. October 15, 2022

News Flash!

We are excited to announce that NYQP is getting quite a face lift for 2022! We've made a number of changes for 2022, all of which are designed to contribute to making NYQP more fun, encouraging more ops to get on the air for NYQP, and to make the contest more fun for every entrant. The changes are summarized on the rules page, with a bit more detail here:

1. **Added the Portable class.** We recognize that many operators make special trips for NYQP that may not fit well into another operating category. We want to recognize these ops for their efforts and encourage more portable activity for NYQP.

2. **Added county line operation for Portable and Mobile entrants.** County line operation has become widely accepted in state QSO parties, because it gives single-operator mobiles the opportunity to activate more counties, makes it possible for all entrants a better chance to work all New York counties in the contest, and makes the contest more fun. It makes log checking more interesting, too, and it adds work for the logging software vendors—so be sure to thank your logging software providers (most of whom are volunteers) for their work to support these features.

3. **Expanded the former Mobile class to include Multi-Single and Multi-Multi classes.** As more mobile operators take to the roads for NYQP, we want to allow the mobile ranks to expand while providing an opportunity for mobiles to choose a transmitter class that matches their ambition for the contest.

4. **Added self-spotting for Mobile and Portable classes only.** One of the main challenges for mobile and portable operators who change location is getting the word out about where to find them. Again, in the interest of providing more people the opportunity to work more counties and more NYQP operators, it was time to add this option for the Mobile and Portable operator classes. We encourage people not to overuse this capability—please be good self-spotting citizens.

5. **Updated overlays and special classes** (School is now an entry class rather than an overlay, which aligns better with other contests and logging platforms).

Changed our log submission platform from email (!) to use nyqp.contesting.com with the generous support of WWROF. Log submission, log checking, logs-received list, and self-service certificate printing are some of the benefits of this move. This is part of a significant modernization of our log checking process overall, which will allow us to get the results out much faster.

1. **Other minor changes—please read the full rules!**

The fully 2022 NYQP rules are posted on the [NYQP Rules page](#), along with a summary of changes.

Full results for the 2021 contest will be posted shortly as well-check in here in within the next couple of days for another update.

Finally, we want to express our appreciation for your patience in the production of the 2021 results. The NYQP website was attacked by ransomware and we had to rebuild from scratch, including the log checking. The only data we had intact was the logs themselves. This process took many months longer than normal. We have taken steps to prevent recurrence. We want to especially acknowledge Dave, WJ2O, who single-handedly reconstructed the log-checking code and made it possible for us to complete the process.

We look forward to working everyone on October 15 in NYQP 2022!

—K2UA and N2ZN for the NYQP committee

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:
 Mike Levy K2ZIP
 levymike@AOL.COM

Directors:
 Fred Brown W5BN
 W5BN@nycap.rr.com

Vice President:
 Peter Miller—W2BEW
 petermil12833@gmail.com

Fred Halley W2EMS
 W2EMS@arrl.net

Secretary:
 Jim McKnight K2LM
 K2LM@nycap.rr.com

Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP
 SROSEN2@nycap.rr.com

Randy Woessner KC1NN
 jdhs1968@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
 Jim Polewczak—K62H
 K62H@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