

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

October Meeting

We had our monthly meeting via Zoom. Our speaker for the evening was John Vogel, N1PGA. The topic was his world class contesting efforts using only trees for antenna supports, not a single tower on his property.

John consistently scores in the top 10 for the "big" contests, CQWW and ARRL DX. He suspends all his antennae from trees, using rope for support. He has Quads, Yagis, and wire antennae, all pointed predominantly towards Europe since that is where the big points and multipliers are. He also has some pointed towards the Caribbean. Most of the antennae are suspended 35 to 50 feet high, and the 160 inverted L reaches to 60 feet before bending back in the L shape.

His neighbor a few miles away is Randy, K5ZD, is also an avid contester, however he uses a traditional tower farm. Randy does slightly better than John, but John is happy where he is in the scoring. John's efforts are considerably less expensive in terms of dollars and complexity.

John noted that the rope he uses for his antennae is a Dyneena SK-78. He has found this to be quite strong and long lasting.

If you missed this meeting, you missed a good one.

Future meetings

Our November meeting, (November 14) will again be held via ZOOM, due to a scheduling conflict with the Fire Training Center. The speaker will be announced later.

Our December meeting will be on December 12, in person at the Trinity Baptist Church, near exit 16 of the Northway. It will be a Holiday gathering We expect to have a gathering much like last year's. It will be open to club members, and their significant other. We expect to have submarines and soft drinks just like last year. Further information, and sign up sheets will be emailed to the members shortly.

Know of any recent technicians that would like to upgrade?

Here is an opportunity to attend a *General Class Licensing* course on Zoom.

Full details below.

73
Brian
NJ1F

From: roland.anders@comcast.net <roland.anders@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:17 PM
To: secretary@yccc.org
Subject: Free General Class Licensing course on Zoom--pass the word

I know the YCCC has a very active membership with lots of contacts (no pun intended) in the amateur radio world. Perhaps some of your great contesters know of Technician licensees who might want to up grade. If so, feel free to pass on the information below. These classes have been very successful, and we hope to have a large class again this time. Here's the info:

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio *General Class Licensing* course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Oct 27 and will run through Thursday, January 5. There will be 9 sessions, with two breaks for holidays. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Please publicize this with anyone that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

Thanks es 73,
Rol, K3RA

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!

FCC Proposes Record \$34,000 Fine for Alleged Interference and Unauthorized Transmissions During Idaho Wildfire via ARRL

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed a \$34,000 fine against Jason Frawley of Lewiston, Idaho, for allegedly interfering with radio operations of the U.S. Forest Service during firefighting activities for the Johnson Creek Fire near Elk River in July 2021. The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on June 8, 2022 to Frawley. The FCC states in the NAL that Frawley holds an Extra-class Amateur Radio Service license, WA7CQ, and is the owner/operator of Leader Communications LLC, licensee of eight microwave licenses and one business license.

The FCC alleged in the NAL that "On July 17, 2021, using his amateur hand-held radio, Frawley transmitted five (5) times, and on July 18, 2021, Frawley transmitted three (3) times on frequencies allocated and authorized for government use, apparently causing harmful interference with his apparently unlawful transmissions."

The frequencies with which Frawley is alleged to have interfered were being used to coordinate firefighting crews from the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Land to fight the 1,000-acre Johnson Creek Fire, including the communications between fire suppressant aircraft and ground crews.

The NAL includes details of the Forest Service's complaint and the FCC's investigation. On July 18, 2021, the Johnson Creek fire operations section chief drove to the Elk River airstrip and hanger where Frawley, who had disclosed his location, was found holding a radio next to a banner that read, "Leader Communications." Frawley admitted to transmitting on government frequencies and identifying himself as "comm tech." He argued that he was not trying to cause interference but instead was transmitting to provide information to the fire fighters.

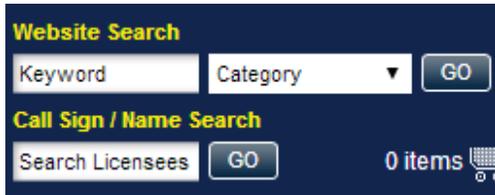
"[A]t no time was I trying to disturb any other communications or air traffic. I was honestly just giving them information I had since I have been working on the butte since the early 90's . . ." wrote Frawley in his October 15, 2021 response to a Letter of Inquiry from FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith.

The FCC however concluded that "Frawley's admitted unauthorized transmissions on frequencies for which he did not have a license had the potential to cause substantial harm to life and property."

The FCC held that Frawley, by his own admission, apparently willfully and repeatedly violated the Commission's rules when he made eight separate radio transmissions on a frequency for which he did not have a license. The FCC stated that unauthorized transmissions on frequencies licensed to public safety entities using those frequencies to respond to emergencies also constitutes a violation of Section 333 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

A news release from the FCC states that the fine is the largest of its kind proposed. "The Communications Act prohibits such interference with authorized radio communications and the Commission takes very seriously any interference with public safety communications," said the FCC. In a separate statement, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel added, "You can't interfere with public safety communications. Full stop. So today we propose the largest fine of its type for this interference that put fire suppression and public safety itself at risk."

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