

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

January 2023 Meeting

The January meeting was dedicated to working on determining the upcoming meeting topics. We had a good participation by the members, and the following is a list of the upcoming meetings schedule. We still need more ideas, so keep them coming.

Feb 13 - Ken K4ZW will speak about his recent DXpedition to ET3AA in Ethiopia. Ken will be joining us via ZOOM.

March 18 - (Saturday) in lieu of normal Monday meeting
Saratoga County Amateur Radio Assn. SWAP FEST
Saturday, March 18, 2023
Doors Open at 7 am
50 West High Street (Solar Bldg)
2 blocks west of Rt. 50
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

VE Test Session at Noon
Talk-in - 147.00 or 147.24 (PL = 91.5)

April 10 - Getting started on HF. If you're a Tech or General and haven't explored the wonderful world of High Frequency (HF) don't miss this. We will be looking for your questions on how to get started. A team of old hands will TRY to answer your questions, (we may not have all the answers off the top of our heads). Simple wire antenna, logging software, HF rigs, anything is open game. Facts and opinions will flow rampant and I'm sure others in the crowd will also chime in. We need to get you involved.

May 15 - to be determined (TBD) (Don't forget Tour de Cure upcoming on June 4)

June 12 - annual meeting - elections, Field Day, other items TBD

Mark your calendars for this year's hamfest

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

What's UP ? Brian NJ1F

If you have been enjoying the fantastic HF propagation conditions of late. Chances are pretty good that you have heard a station saying or sending their call followed by "UP". So what exactly is that station referring to? The Disney movie UP? Their new antenna? Sunspot numbers? What the station is saying is they are listing up in frequency. Sometimes they will indicate they are listening up 1 Khz or 5 Khz, other times you will have to do some listening to find where they are listening. Sometimes they are listening down! You have absolutely ZERO chance of working this station if you call on his frequency!

So here are a few tips and tricks to work a station operating split.

The first thing you will have to do is learn a bit about your HF radio. Most modern HF rigs have two VFO's and some of the higher end rigs actually have dual receivers. Let's first focus on dual VFO operation. So if your rig has two VFO's there will be a button usually labeled **A/B**. Pushing that button toggles between the two VFO's. So, let's say the DX station is tuned in on VFO A great. Now make sure that VFO B is set to the same mode and frequency. To do this your rig will have a button labeled **A=B** which you will want to press to put both VFO's on the DX frequency. Now you are ready to press the **VFO A/B** to switch to the B VFO. Next simply tune up in frequency until you hear stations calling the DX station. Pressing the **A/B** button will allow you to toggle between the DX on VFO A and the callers on VFO B. Ok so you found where the DX station is listening so the next thing you have to do is put your rig into **Split** mode where it listens on VFO A and transmits on VFO B. Most rigs have a button labeled **split**. Make sure that you transmit on VFO B where is DX is listening. When you key your rig, you will see the frequency display switch. You have called the station but not gotten a reply after several calls, you might want to give a listen on VFO B to see if he is still working stations on that frequency or has dialed up or down.

While a dual VFO rig allows you to work stations split there is a limitation that rigs with dual receivers overcome. The dual receiver rig allows you to listen to both the DX station frequency and the pileup frequency simultaneously. This is advantageous when chasing a "rare" DX station, like the upcoming DX-Pedition 3Y0J where the calling station pileup will be 10 to 20 khz wide! The other advantage is that most dual receiver rigs have two tuning knobs one for each receiver so this helps minimize accidentally changing listening frequency. However the operation of putting a dual receiver rig in split mode is basically the same as the dual VFO.

Continued next page

So why do stations operate in split frequency mode anyway? Well perhaps the biggest reason is that the DX station is rare and quickly generates a pileup of stations that basically never stop calling! If the callers don't hear the DX coming back to a station within .5 nanoseconds after their call, they call again! By operating split, the DX can answer stations while others in the pileup continue to call. Thus greatly improving the rate at which they can work stations! Another reason especially on 40-meter SSB is that many countries SSB band is in the high end of the US CW band and below the US SSB portion. Thus, the need to transmit within one's country's band. Third is that the DX station might be operating with limited power and antennas so as previously mentioned if the callers don't hear the DX coming back because of stations calling on top of the DX station.

One of the most important things when operating is to listen, listen and listen to the DX station and the pileup to see if there is a pattern. The DX always comes back to a late caller or first caller? Also does the DX station change his receive frequency after every qso, after 5 qso's. Are they tuning up or down in the pileup? Also listen to make sure that the pileup frequency doesn't have a QSO or Net on it that your transmission would interfere with. Another tip when operating CW split with a computer-controlled rig if you grab a spot where the spotter indicated the split frequency. Wow this is going to be easy as N1MM will set the rig up on the correct frequency and split. All you have to do is call. Well not so fast! I typically use my XIT feature to change my transmit frequency up or down 20hz. This helps your signal stand out from the "Zero beat" frequency.

Split operation can be challenging but with practice you will easily master it and work a lot of DX.

Hope to hear you on the air and in the pileups!

[Burlington HamFest](#)

Here is the information website for the upcoming Burlington VT hamfest on February 25th
<https://www.ham-con.org/>

Advance purchase discounted tickets (save \$4) are available at <http://ham-con.org/hamconpay.html>

3Y0J Dxpedition

Sharing from a facebook post January - Feb 2023

3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023 Update: RADIO OPERATIONS BAND PLAN

- 3Y0J will always listen up (using split) so it will be useless to call us on our transmission frequency. Please be sure to double check your settings to make sure you are not calling us simplex.
- Always give your full callsign. Listening is the key, so be sure we call you before replying.
- CW MAX 15 kHz split—(operators choose QRG within a certain bandwidth)
- SSB MAX 30 kHz split (operators choose QRG within a certain bandwidth)
- Lowest 10 kHz spectrum on regular bands—NO TX to allow regular DX traffic
- Lowest 5 kHz on WARC band -NO TX to allow regular DX traffic
- We are aware of US band plans for E/A/G/N/T
- FT8 40-10m, with focus on 20-10m yagis.
- FT8 ALWAYS F/H
- We will transmit: 100W on FT8, Up to 1500W on CW/SSB (by special permit)
- Please Follow The DX Code of Conduct

73,
Steve N2AJ
Media Officer & NA East Coast Pilot
3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023 DXpedition

ARRL Podcasts via ARRL

On the Air

Sponsored by [Icom](#)

In the latest episode of the ARRL [On the Air](#) podcast, Ginger Wilder, KI5TJE, discusses her first time running an amateur radio net. Get ready to be the next Net Control operator for your local net.

ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

Thanks

N2YZI, NC2P, W2XM

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association - Membership Information
Please Print CLEARLY

Name _____

Callsign _____

Email Address _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

ARRL Member YES NO License Class N T G A E

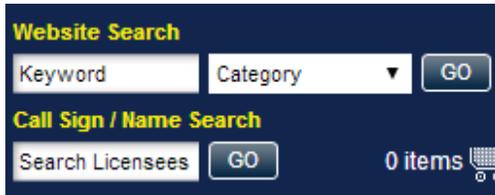
Amt _____ Cash or Check # # of years _____ Was Now

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



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

*Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association
presents our 37th annual*

HAMFEST 2023

Saturday, September 9th; Gates open at 7:00 am

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

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



- NEW AND USED gear and accessories to haggle over
- KJI Electronics will offer the latest radios, books, etc.
- VE exam to be held at 8:30 am (on site this year!)
- Plenty of room to display your sale items
- Demonstrations: TBA
- Fox-hunt on the fairground property
- Under-cover tables available for \$10 each
- Delicious Food served all day

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 °

For Information or reservations contact: Jim Polewczak - KG2H
231 Northline Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Email: kg2h@arl.net

SEE US AT www.K2DLL.ORG