

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SCARA's Annual SWAPFEST - A Big Success!

Our antidote to the late-winter blues was held on March 12, and many hams showed up to find the treasures hidden among the boat anchors. It was a good break from Ol Man Winter, and there was very little fighting over the gear. (More photos inside)



Look at the size of that triode!

Phil Olszewski, W2PO—Silent Key

Long-time SCARA club member Phil Olszewski, W2PO, passed in December. Phil's activity with the club dates back to the early days of Saratoga County RACES.

Phil's wife, Carm, is also a ham—N2RAC.

Phil was a firefighter in the Saratoga Springs FD, and also an avid Little League coach and boxing enthusiast.

Our condolences go out to Carm and to Phil's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

W2PO—SK

April Meeting Program: “My Favorite Antenna”

Here's a new idea that should appeal to everyone who operates a radio — **antennas that work**. How do we know they work? You tell us so.

If you have a favorite antenna design, tell us about it. Bring a drawing or a review from *eham.net* or an ad or brochure. Or just tell us in your own words why you think it's good.

Maybe it's just plain magic. Or maybe you want to warn us about a dud. Either way, bring a drawing or description of an antenna, and tell us about it in two minutes to fifteen minutes — as much or as little as you want to say.

This will be fun. And in the future, we can expand to talk about radios, antenna tuners, and more.

The general meeting starts at 7:30 pm on Monday, April 11, and is preceded by the board of directors' meeting at 6:30. Location is Wilton EMS Bldg., Jones Road off Route 50, north of Exit 15.



New Licensees and Upgrades at the VE Test Session

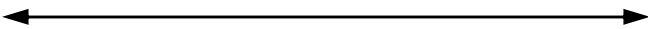
Seven out of ten people passed their VE exams after the SwapFest on March 12, and either became new hams or upgraded their license class.

Congratulations to:

KC2ZWO—Joe Asmonda, Technician
KC2ZDE—Craig Cummings, General
W2CBH—Diana DeAvila, Extra
N2NEW—Tom Giorgio, Extra
KC2ZWP—Tom Madison, General
WB2BUX—Wayne Smith, General
KC2CLK—Kevin Varmette, Extra

Thanks to the following Volunteer Examiners who helped administer and grade the tests:

Jim McKnight—K2LM
Byron Wilhoite—K2BD
Walt Goddard—W2ZD
Frank Frisone—KA2QYE
Sid Wolin—K2LJH
Larry Eaton—NT2B
Jim Polewczak—KG2H



Field Day is Coming June 25-26 Plan to Be Involved

The biggest ARRL-sponsored event of the year is coming up June 25 and 26. ARRL Field Day is when club stations all over the US and Canada will be operating for 24 hours straight — most on emergency power—to test their gear and their operating skills.

SCARA's Field Day station will once again be at the Wilton EMS headquarters on Jones Road in Wilton. FD Coordinator, Byron Wilhoite, K2BD, will lead the operation, and he'll need all the help he can get. All hands are needed for antenna set-up on Friday afternoon, 6/24, and we'll need operators on phone and CW on Saturday and Sunday — including overnight.

This is our biggest, most-fun, operating event. Let Byron know you're willing to help out at the meeting or at k2bd@hotmail.com.

Public Service Events

The following events are supported by SCARA members and other amateurs. All could use volunteers to help facilitate communications. Please contact the person listed for each if you can help. Thank you.

Apr 30—Boy Scout Camporee Demonstration

Camp Boyhaven—Middle Grove
0800 Set up, Boys arrive at 0900, End 1500 hrs
Need 6-8 operators
Tim Kemp, N2MBX—n2mbx@arrl.net

May 1—MS Walk

Saratoga Casino & Raceway
0900 Set up, Walk at 1000 hrs
Tom Woznack, N2SQO, n2squo@nycap.rr.com

May 29—Saratoga Lions Club Duathlon

Skidmore College
Jim McKnight, K2LM, k2lm@arrl.net

June 5—ADA Tour de Cure

Saratoga Springs High School
Lee Palmer, WB2NSC, lpalmer@capital.net

July 16—MS Bike Event

West Mountain
Need 20 amateurs
Mike Mollica, K2SWF, k2swf@yahoo.com

September 10—Double H Bike Challenge*

TBA

October 15—Rosie's Walk, Lions/Diabetes*

Galway High School
Dave Atwell, N2FEP, datwell@nycap.rr.com

October 16—Mohawk Towpath Duathlon

Fred Halley, W2EMS, w2ems@arrl.net

* To be confirmed

Other events that may need your help:

April 10—Fulton County YMCA 5K, Johnstown

Don, wa2ez@yahoo.com

June 4—Half Marathon/Community Walk, Brunswick

Stephen, kc2vue@yahoo.com

SwapFest Fun

To assure impartiality, winners of the SwapFest door prize and the 50-50 drawing were chosen at random by the Ham-In-Training pictured at right.

The hand-held radio was won by K2CK—Scott Haller, from East Greenbush.

The proceeds from the 50-50 was won by KC2APP—George Abraham, from Fort Johnson, NY.

Congratulations!

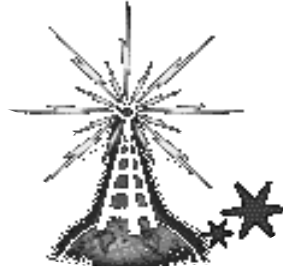




K2DLL ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:
<http://www.k2dll.net>.
Here you will find the latest club news and events.

The club operates two 2-meter repeaters. The 147.24 repeater is located 15 miles west of Saratoga Springs at Lake Nancy. The 147.00 repeater is located 10 miles north of Saratoga Springs on Spruce Mountain, near Corinth, NY. This repeater offers an “emergency” phone patch. These two machines, in combination, offer excellent North to South and East to West communications far beyond Saratoga County. Both repeaters have a +600 kHz input. These repeaters are now linked together full-time by the club’s third repeater on 448.225 MHz.



PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.

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