

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

April 10, 2023 - our regular monthly club meeting

Introduction to High Frequency radio. Are you a tech or general class licensee? You know you have privileges on HF, right? You should explore HF, but you're full of questions. Frequencies? Antennas? Radios? Propagation? Logging? We had KG2H (Jim) and NJ1F (Brian) who are experienced HF operators on hand answering some of your basic questions and encouraging people to start using HF. We also stressed that the upcoming Field Day on June 25 and June 26 would be an excellent low stress introduction to HF, and we encouraged techs and generals to come and get their feet wet.

We held this meeting as a hybrid meeting, physically at the Fire Training session in Ballston Spa at 7:00 PM, and also on Zoom, for those of you who may find it difficult to come in person. We had several individuals who attended via the ZOOM link.

If you missed the meeting, but still want to get some elmering help, feel free to contact any of the officers listed on the last page of the newsletter.

May QST

Have you seen the May issue of QST. It came in the mail the other day and I spotted a few articles that caught my eye immediately. I haven't had time to read them yet, but that's on my TO DO list.

- On Page 59 is an article "Experience the Wonders of Solar Cycle 25's Solar Maximum"
- On Page 54 is an article "FCC Exposure Rules Soon to Affect Every US Radio Amateur"
- On Page 27 is an article about the upcoming Field Day event.

April Swapfest



A good sized crowd showed up



These folks found a quiet spot to chat

Our April Swapfest was a big success. It was a decent weather day, and people just wanted to come out and meet each other.

The VE exam held afterwards was also a success. We had 8 testing candidates. As a result, we now have 3 new Technicians, and 2 new General Class operators in our ranks.

Congrats to Techs KE2DBZ, KE2BCD, and KE2DBF

Congrats to Generals KC3GFY, KE2DBE, and K2RHI

April 22, 2023 ARES



On April 22 an ARES exercise was conducted at the Fire Training Center. This was an exercise to test the use of High Frequency NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Signal) antennae ability to concentrate its signal over a short range. This is useful for local area emergencies, covering an area greater than any local FM repeater's range. On a very short notice we had a group of 4 hams, set up 2 different antennae for testing.

Upcoming Events

May 8, 2023 - We hope to schedule a speaker from ADA (American Diabetes Association) Tour de Cure is back in the Saratoga region!! After being curtailed due to COVID, the ADA will again be bicycling a bunch of routes in the Saratoga area. The event will be held on June 4, with the Start / Finish at the Ellms Family Farm on Charlton Road. Our club has supported this since it's inception in this area. There are several routes from 10 miles to 100 miles. We provide communications to the rest areas, sag vehicles, bike repair people, and anywhere else the ADA wants us to be. We use our local voice repeaters and APRS to let us know the locations of the support vehicles. It's a fun event for us, but also hones our emergency communications skills

May 28, 2023—Lions Club Duathlon

We have provided communications for this event many years. Jim McKnight- K2LM is organizing this event. We need communicators. Contact Jim at K2LM@nycap.rr.com

June 4, 2023 - Tour de Cure.

See above, we need a large number of communications. Mike Levy - K2ZIP is organizing the hams. Please contact him to volunteer, LevyMike@aol.com If you would like to see the web page from ADA, use this link: [American Diabetes Association: 2023 Tour de Cure: Capital Region](#)

June 12, 2023 - Monthly Club Meeting

Topic TBD. Held at the Fire Training Center in Ballston Spa 7:00 PM

June 23, 24, and 25. - Field Day

We will be starting setup on Friday afternoon, continuing on Saturday morning. We are shooting for a good attendance to keep the radios busy all 24 hours starting on air at 2:00 PM. We are not expecting to break into the top 10 in our category, our objective is to simply have a lot of club members come by and operate. Remember the April meeting agenda, Intro to HF radio? We want all you Techs and Generals to come out and get your hands on experience on Setup, Operation, and Tear Down.

More information about Field Day will be forthcoming.

Upcoming ARRL Poll Jim KG2H

I notice that the ARRL will be polling its members starting on May 1. From what I can gather reading the "Second Century" column a few months ago this poll will concern about a potential ARRL Dues increase.

I have a few thoughts of my own on this, and I would like to share them with you.

Yes, we know that everything seems to be increasing dramatically, (except your income if you're a retired person), so it is understandable that ARRL needs to increase their revenue. I don't know exactly what will be on the poll, but I think they should consider implementing some changes on publishing QST.

My first thought is to do away with mailing (or making optional at extra cost) a physical copy of QST. Quite frankly I find reading it on line to be a better way for me. You also get to actually download the issue to your device so you could keep it for a long time without cluttering a shelf in your home.

If the uproar about not mailing a copy is too loud, decrease the publishing costs. I remember a few years back they were apologizing profusely about an issue that was published on a lower grade paper, due to a paper shortage. Quite frankly, I found that issue to be one which was extremely easy on the eyes to read, because it wasn't that glossy paper they normally use. If that type of paper is less expensive, I say go for it.

Of course, when the poll is issued, I encourage you all to respond to it, and give your feedback to the ARRL.

On the Air

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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

NC2P, NE1IH, KA2FBZ KA5VVI, W2FW, NJ1F, K1RQ,

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

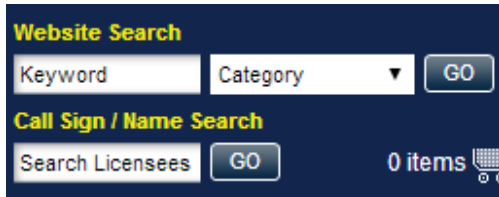
Amt _____ Cash or Check # # of years _____ Was Now

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



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

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