



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY R.A.C.E.S. ASSOCIATION, INC.

Presidents Column Fred — W2EMS

As the winter months approach I ponder the tasks I need to do to prepare for cold, snow, ice, and other weather related issues. I love living in this area while others are left wondering why they choose to live in the great Northeast.

We, as radio operators, are not immune to the changing of the seasons in New England and need to prepare our gear for a state of readiness to respond to calls for help. It's not unheard of to get calls from the Red Cross, County Emergency Services, State Emergency services and other served agencies requesting our expertise in radio communications as weather related situations occur.

Amateur Radio now has classifications in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and is known nation wide as a resource to be called to support communications needs in times of an incident. There are entire sections in the NIMS plan that classifies Amateur Radio resources in terms the Incident Commander can easily utilize.

Each of us needs to be ready to respond to a call for help at a moments notice. Take some time to review and prepare your equipment and tailor your gear for winter operations. Although we each have a wide variety of gear many common items are necessary for a successful operation.

The club web site has a collection of useful information to include a list of recommended supplies for you very own "Jump Kit". Point your web browser to the **ARES** section on the club website and read through the information to help **you prepare** to help others at a moments notice.

Board Minutes 13 November 2006

Meeting was called to order by president Fred W2EMS at 6:35PM. A quorum was present with Fred-W2EMS, Darlene-N2XQG, Dennis-WA2JWO, Peter-W2BEW,

Mark-KA2FBZ, Al-KA1IEG, Ed-KC2MIH in attendance. Also visitors Jim-K2LM, Sandy-KC2MID, Byron-KC2KOH and Francis-W1LJF

The President's Report:

- Meeting program topic suggestions submitted (need program coordinator)
- Radio room setup now scheduled for 6pm Wednesday 11/15 by Mark and Fred
- At the recommendation of Jim, K2LM, the changeover to PL tone 91.5Hz on the club's two repeaters will be delayed until spring, when access to the repeater site is more dependable
- Requested that the revised Constitution & Bylaws be emailed to members along with the November newsletter.
- Received board approval for job description for Public Service Coordinator position
- Still no volunteers to take on Program Director position

Secretary's Report:

- Dues are due by 12/31 for any member who has not paid ahead
- An emailing will be made to all affected members, and a notice will be placed in the November newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

- Report on income, expenses and bank balance
- Insurance bill is due. Board requested a summary of its coverage.

Radio Officer's Report (via Jim, K2LM):

- The new antenna on the .36 repeater worked briefly, but when problems developed, closer examination revealed that the hardline (feedline) had taken on water and was ruined.

After discussion, the board voted to allocate up to \$450 to expedite replacement of the damaged hardline and connectors

Aditonal Business

-Jim (K2LM) reported that Echolink is back up after an outage, and suggested the club reimburse Rich (WZ2D), for electricity costs for the system.

-Board authorized the reservation of the Solar Building for the club swapfest to be held on March 10, 2007.

- Board authorized \$50 to file “assumed name” of ‘Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association’
- Board approved temporary loan of the club’s TS-440S to Byron (KC2KOH)
- Discussion of information packet for new members. Board members to bring ideas to next meeting.
- MSC to adjourn at 7:25PM

**Ham Radio is a CONTACT sport—
Get on the air & make a CONTACT!**

General Meeting Minutes:

- Date announced for Swapfest: March 10, 2007— Solar Building, Ballston Spa
- Hamfest date TBA—either September 8 or 15th
- 2007 MS Bike Tour to be held July 14th, 2007 (single day); will consist of several loops, which begin at Moreau Lake State Park. Details to be placed on website as available.
- Next month’s meeting will be a holiday social gathering. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert dish to share, and are urged to bring a new toy—unwrapped— to be turned over to at local charity for needy children.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:50pM
- Presentation by Fred (W2EMS) on the evolution of emergency locating devices for ships, planes and individuals.

**Public Service
Glenn — KA2DTH**



On **October 21st**, the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Rotary Apple Run was held, beginning at the High School. Don KF2AB was the primary contact for this event, and filed this report:

Three members of the Saratoga County RACES Club provided back-up and emergency radio communications support at the Apple Run, a 5K run/walk in Burnt Hills, NY on Saturday, October 21, 2006. Tom N2SQO was net control and Bob KB2TBB and Don KF2AB covered the course. Ken WA2ENV, a member of the Burnt Hills - Balston Lake Rotary Club, the sponsors of the foot-race, monitored the our 2 meter radio communications. The operation was carried out on simplex .

On **October 23rd**, Lee (WB2NSC) and myself met with the MS Society in planning for the 2007 Bicycle Tour. We are pleased to announce that they plan to hold a single day event, consisting of multiple loops to be held at the Moreau State Park. They are shooting for the 14th of July as the event date.

Please continue to visit the club website at www.wa2umx.net and watch the calendar. As our assistance is requested, dates and information will be posted there.



**Radio Officer
Dave — N2FEP**

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving as we all have much to be thankful for. As a ham we have the use of radio frequencies to ply our hobby on and the freedom to use them within the guidelines set for us. We can

pursue any or all parts of the hobby.

I want to thank the members that took the time to start the setup of the club station at the Wilton Ambulance Corp. We have a great location and antenna system there and the club should avail itself of the opportunity to operate there. The triband antenna has excellent coverage from its high perch. We should use our radios there so we become familiar with the operations there so that if needed in an emergency we are not hampered by our lack of use.

The county is moving forward on the new radio system. They received permission to build the new system. They are also in the process of moving all their operations on Spruce Mt. to the National Grid site. Jim K2LM is working on getting permission for our equipment on Spruce to that site also.



I hope he is successful. As for our other system in

Providence on 24 and all the beacons there, the county has not yet said how that site will change but it will. I hope we are included in the new plans. We need our systems and so does the county even if they do not realize that.

I want to thank all the board members and club members for their continued support of 36. Yet another equipment failure and for no reason. The hardline failed and that put the repeater off the air. The replacement cable and connectors should be here before Thanksgiving and we will put it up and get back on the air as soon as we have the cable and the weather cooperates. 36 was working better than ever til the hardline failed. Without the support of the group the repeater would certainly go off the air. Thank you for the continued support.

til next time
73
Dave N2FEP

Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 8PM for our weekly net. With this frequently held event we hope to be able to provide timely information to area amateurs as well as provide a forum for selling/swapping gear and discussing topics in a formally directed net environment.

The 147.00 and 147.24 repeaters are linked by the 448.225 machine during this net, so feel free to check in on any of the repeaters.

NOTICE:

We are looking for volunteers to run the net—it is a simple job, the text is on the club website and all you need to do is record the calls/names & forward them to Fred, W2EMS. I'm sure he would appreciate the break!

Meetings

The next annual Christmas meeting of the Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association, Inc. will be held at the Wilton Emergency Corps. Building on December 11th at 7:30PM. There will be no program or Board of Directors meeting in December, just this social gathering. It would be appreciated if you brought a treat to pass.

We will also be collecting new unwrapped presents for children to be donated to a local charity.

FOR SALE:

Icom 737 HF Transceiver—Excellent condition, \$475.00. This is an all mode HF xcvr with coverage from 10m—160m. 10-100 watts on USB, LSB, CW & FM—10-40 watts on AM. Built in auto antenna tuner, CR-282 High Stability crystal unit installed making the frequency stability 0.5ppm from -22 deg F to +122 deg F. Included are HM-36 hand mic, 12VDC power cord and instruction manual. The service manual is also available for an additional \$15.00.

Interested parties should contact **Mark Hansen, KA2FBZ** at 518-587-8053 or mhansen4@nycap.rr.com.

Items from the estate of Dick Jenkins, **W2GWY**, are listed on the club website. Please look on the 'Ham Ads' page, and contact **Jim, K2LM** for further details.

If you have any items to list, please contact the editor of this newsletter.

Club News

It is time to renew your membership!

If you have not paid ahead, your membership will expire on December 31st, along with your subscription to the newsletter.

NOTICE:

We are looking for someone to be the Meeting Events Coordinator for this year. It is an easy task, create a slate of programs of general radio interest, line up presenters and schedule the presentations. We have many event ideas to aid in this process! If you could help, please contact Fred, W2EMS.

Please contact the club Treasurer, Al Margodonna KA1IEG, to pay your 2007 dues!

Dues are a bargain at \$10/year single or \$15/year for a family. Make your check payable to Saratoga RACES, Inc.





WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:
<http://www.wa2umx.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, in Barkersville. This repeater has a phone patch, which is restricted to members only. 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. These repeaters are linked together at various times by the club's third repeater on 448.225 MHz.

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