



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

(there is no president's column this month)

EDITORIAL

Your club needs you. It needs your energy, your ideas, and your involvement. Otherwise, it will likely become irrelevant. Why do I say that?

- No one contacted our nominating committee about serving as an officer or a director for the next year. Consequently, we have the same officers and one replacement director for next year. No new blood.
- No one has stepped forward to act as Meeting Programs Coordinator to arrange some interesting programs and boost meeting attendance. As a result, we'll have fewer (or no) speakers or demonstrations
- No one has offered to serve as Public Service Events Coordinator. If we continue to serve community non-profit groups in their public programs, every event will be a last-minute scramble for operators — and we could screw up.
- While Byron is doing a great job of gathering volunteers for Field Day participation, having to twist arms can take all the fun out of it
- The Hamfest gets harder to pull off every year, because there are barely enough workers to cover the chores, and a few people get burned out.

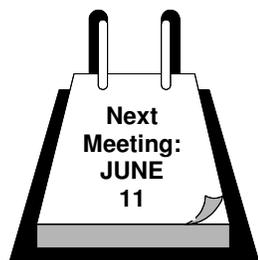
It's time for all of us to make a renewed commitment to making this club vibrant again. Let's be realistic.

One new activity I'd like to propose is that several of us enroll in the ARRL Emergency Communications online courses. We could start a new group every 2-3 months.

We'd be better prepared as a club — and it would be fun.

Please think about what you can help with, and jump right in. You'll find it very rewarding. I promise!

— Peter, W2BEW



Field Day! - 2007 - Field Day!

When: June 23-24, 2007

Where: Wilton EMS Building, Jones Road

Why: Because it's fun!

Contact: Byron Wilhoite, K2BD at 518-587-4807; Leave a message, or catch him on 147.00 or 145.39 MHz

The biggest ham radio event of the year is coming, and the club is looking for volunteers to help out with Field Day, and make it a big success and a fun time. All hams are urged to come out and help us to set up and tear down, as well as to make some contacts.

Byron Wilhoite K2BD (ex KC2KOH) has taken over the event and it's his first FD, so all your help and input is greatly appreciated. Field Day is a great opportunity to meet new hams and to get together with old friends, too. It is a team sport! We'll be putting up antennas and masts, running coax, stringing wires and setting up radios. Then -- operate til you've had your fill!

Food and beverages will be provided. On Saturday there will be a real cook barbecuing for all of the amateurs working! So dust off your name tags and come out of the woodwork and pitch in. Let's keep this sport thriving. And let's show what hams can do when they work together, Many hands make light work!

WANTED: HELP WITH CLUB FUNCTIONS

- **Emergency Coordinator**— Liaison to county emergency services, and/or coordinate Skywarn, ARES.
- **Public Service Event Coordinator**—Act as contact with the groups we serve, keep a calendar of events and a list of volunteers
- **Meeting Program Coordinator**—Help arrange interesting speakers and topics for club meetings
- **Field Day Team Members**—String wires and operate as long as you wish

Report from Radio Officer / Emergency Coordinator / Skywarn Coordinator

I hope everyone is ready for thunderstorm season. Make sure your back up power and all the emergency antenna systems you use are ready should the need arise.



The county is moving slowly forward to upgrade their emergency communications (ECOMM) system. Plans are in the works for a new taller tower at the Providence site. I don't yet know how amateur radio will fare in this venture. I can only hope

that we will be included. Space in the building is at a premium, and we do occupy lots of it there. Just be ready for whatever happens.

I am looking for someone who may be willing to take over some of my many jobs in amateur radio. As you know, my time is very tight, and I can no longer provide all the time that amateur radio emergency communications requires. If anyone is willing to take over this work please let me know and I will be glad to give you the needed information and contacts to make that happen.



I have been the EC for 29 years and Skywarn Coordinator for nearly as many. I don't want the amateur radio community to suffer from my lack of attention. Over the years many have helped make ECOMM a success in our area. I did not do it all by myself. I want to see our service to the area continue.

Upcoming issues include:

- The new county radio system and how we fit in with emergency services in the county
- Skywarn coordination through National Weather Service in Albany
- ARES / RACES operations when called upon.

Someone needs to stay on top of these items and keep ECOMM amateur radio on the air. Please let me know if you can help.

Thanks for everyone's support.

Dave Atwell (datwell@nycap.rr.com)
N2FEP

Board of Directors Meeting May 14, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm. Quorum present with: Fred – W2EMS; Darlene – N2XQG; Al – KA1IEG; Peter – W2BEW; Mark – KA2FBZ; Ed – AB2XA (ex KC2MIH); Dennis – WA2JWO, present.

Actions / Discussions:

- Byron, K2BD, announced the need for additional volunteers for Field Day set-up, teardown, and operation. Will use "big tower" and will run 3, 4 or 5 stations, depending on turnout.
 - Board approved traditional expenditure of \$200 for food and beverages for FD event.
 - Board approved expenditure for 25 pins for FD participants
- Public Service rolls distributed, showing volunteers and hours worked by event.
 - Schedule of upcoming events on page 3 of this newsletter
- Election of officers and directors to be held at General Meeting.
 - No recommendations from Nominating Committee
- Treasurer's Report: Began 2007 with \$8639.60 balance; Began May '07 with \$ 9566.82; Balance today (5/14/07) is \$8304.76. Approved.
- Secretary's Report: Several members have renewed their membership for 2007, but many have not. Paid membership now stands at 89. 29 people have not renewed for 2007.
- Board approved K2LM's request for expenditure of \$287.50 to Frank, KA2QYE, for Comet GP9 antenna already in use as temporary 147.00 repeater antenna.
- K2LM reported that Sysop Rich, WZ2D, is currently having his house re-sided, which has disrupted the EchoLink equipment. The club's EchoLink system will be down for 6-8 weeks.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

General Meeting May 14, 2007

Meeting convened at 7:30 pm.

Actions / Discussions:

- Byron, K2BD, announced the need for additional volunteers for Field Day set-up, teardown, and operation. Will use "big tower" and will run 3, 4 or 5 stations, depending on turnout.

Gen'l Meeting—cont.

- Treasurer's Report (as above)
- Election of Officers and Directors
 - No recommendations from Nominating Committee
 - W2EMS nominated Byron, K2BD, to fill vacancy left by KA2DTH's departure
 - K2BD elected unanimously to Board of Directors
 - Moved and seconded that remaining officers and directors be re-elected to serve another one-year term
 - Motion unanimously carried; officers and directors re-elected
- Promotional brochures ordered from ARRL. Should arrive in time for Field Day.
- Club affiliation with ARRL has been on hold pending outcome of election of officers. Affiliation will now proceed.
- Mosquitoes prevailed; and meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Submitted by Peter, W2BEW

Public Service Events

Next Public Service Events (PSE) on the schedule:

May 27 —Saratoga Lions Duathlon from Skidmore
Jim— K2LM@arrl.net

June 10 —ADA Tour de Cure from Stillwater HS.
Lee— lpalmer@capital.net

June 23-24 —ARRL Field Day—Wilton EMS Bldg.
Byron— K2BD, 587-4807

July 14 —MS Bike Tour from Moreau State Park.
TBA

Sept. 8 —SCARA Hamfest, County Fairgrounds
Darlene— dar@saratogaspringsny.us

Upcoming Events:

Mohawk Towpath Duathlon
BH-BL Rotary—Apple Run / Walk

These events need volunteers. We also need an events coordinator. Please help.

New events will also be listed on www.wa2umx.net calendar.

Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 8 PM for our weekly net. This regular gathering offers on-air practice in net operation in preparation for emergency situations. It also provides timely information to area amateurs, and serves as 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 MHz machine during this net, so feel free to check in on any of these repeaters. PL tone is 91.5 Hz.

We are looking for volunteer Net Control stations for the Sunday evening net. It's easy. Just keep track of the check-ins and forward them to Fred, W2EMS after the net.

More Ham Radio Fun!

This space reserved for descriptions, photos and just plain bragging about recent events, contests, tower-raising, incredible DX, etc.

Here's a couple of photos from the March Swapfest. Winner of the HT was Shaun Bertok, who passed his license exam later that day.



The 50/50 raffle was won by George, N2NMX, now W2SFD.



Buy / Sell / Swap

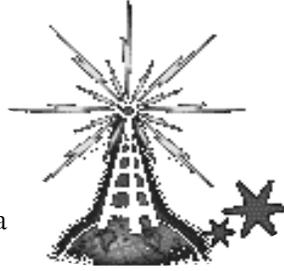
This space reserved for your announcements.



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. This repeater has a members-only phone patch. 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.
PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.



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