



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting and General Meeting—May 12, 2008

Present at the board meeting:

Darlene, N2XQG; Dennis, WA2JWO; Ed, AB2XA; Byron, K2BD; Dave, NR2J; Al, KA1IEG; Peter, W2BEW; Jim, K2LM; Sandy, KC2MID; Bill, KC2NXC, Larry, KC2BLC; and Tim, N2MBX.

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm.

* Minutes of April meeting approved

* Darlene-N2XQG reported that Dave-N2FEP had sent a letter of resignation to the board. Board determined that we can do without a SkyWarn Coordinator. Jim-K2LM agreed to discuss a replacement Radio Officer with Paul Lent, County Emergency Svcs. Coordinator.

* Jim-K2LM reported that the county antennas on Spruce Mtn will probably not be moved before the Tour de Cure on June 8. Jim requested \$275 to purchase 6 batteries for APRS radios for the Tour. Board approved.

* Byron-K2BD confirmed that the Search & Rescue RV will be available for Field Day, 6/28-29. Laptops will be available per Fred-W2EMS. Antennas and equipment have been checked out. FD pins will be ordered from ARRL after the event. Byron requested \$200 for food and supplies. Board approved.

* Al-KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report:

Beginning Bal.— \$ 9456.42

Received \$35 in dues, earned \$2.82 interest

Ending Bal.—\$ 9494.24; Board accepted report

* Ed-AB2XA reported on two recent public service events: 4-H Walkathon—9 volunteers, 4 hrs; MS Walk—9 volunteers, 3 hrs. More events listed elsewhere in this letter.

* Tim-N2MBX requested volunteers and equipment for the Boy Scout Camporee on May 17. Board approved loan of equipment. Tim's report elsewhere in letter.

* Peter-W2BEW reported that there are 120 names on the club roster, but only 86 are paid-up memberships. 8 others are complementary newsletter subscriptions. Will

be notifying unpaid members that dues are due.

* It was reported that Stormy-N2VLS has designed buttons for sale with the club's new dba name (Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association) and had requested the club's approval. The board saw no problem with this and advised that Stormy may proceed.

* Darlene-N2XQG reported that PR and emailings are underway for the club's Hamfest September 13.

* Darlene also reported that SEC Frank Fallon's annual Presidents' Club meeting will be held the first weekend in June in New Jersey.

◇ Al-KA1IEG reported that the Nominating Committee was recommending that the entire Board of Directors, and the Secretary and Treasurer be nominated to remain in their current positions. Acting President Darlene-N2XQG reluctantly agreed to be nominated as president. However, no one had agreed to serve as vice president.

Present at the General Meeting:

All of the above, plus: Bob, KB2TBB; Henry, KB2STR; Hal, AK2E; and Don, WA2OFQ.

* At the General Meeting, Secretary, Peter-W2BEW cast a vote for the proposed slate of officers and the membership approved it as follows:

President—Darlene Lake, N2XQG

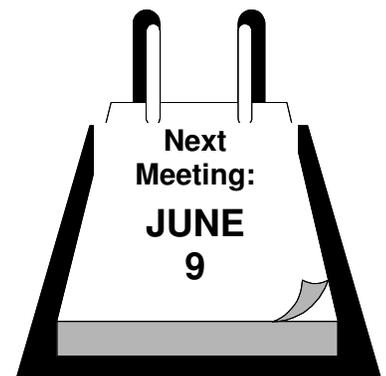
Vice President—tabled until June meeting

Secretary—Peter Miller, W2BEW

Treasurer—Al Margadonna, KA1IEG

Directors: Dennis Kagel-WB2JWO; Dave Bargovic-NR2J; Ed Kear-AB2XA; Byron Wilhoite-K2BD.

(continued ...)



Program for the evening was Dave, NR2J, who took us for a stroll down Memory Lane, with records from the files of Ed Whitaker-K2DLL, a founding member of the club in 1973.

* Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Submitted by Peter-W2BEW

Upcoming Meetings & Public Service Events

(Ed, AB2XA—PSE Chair)

JUNE 8—ADA Tour de Cure Bike Run

Lee Palmer-WB2NSC
Lpalmer@capital.net

JUNE 9 – Meeting: Field Day Preparations

Bring your ideas about how to help FD Chair-Byron, K2BD, prepare for our club participation.

JUNE 14-15—ARRL June VHF QSO Party

2 pm Saturday—11 pm Sunday EDST

JUNE 28-29 – Field Day Event

JULY 12– MS Bike Run—Moreau Lake Park

Kathy Barton KC2DOG
kbarton@nycap.rr.com
(Needs 13 volunteers!)

JULY 19—Utica HamFest

JULY 20– Iron Man Triathlon-Lake Placid

No club contact

AUGUST 22-24—ARRL New England Convention (Boxboro, MA)

SEPTEMBER 13 – Hamfest & VE Exams

Got any ideas for upcoming programs? Talk with Dave, NR2J, and let him know what you'd like to see and hear at future meetings.

Photos

Look for full-color photos of recent club events on Page 5 of this newsletter (email version only).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There have been many changes over the past couple months that have led us to where we are today:

* Our President at the time (Fred, W2EMS) resigned due to work obligations that moved our Vice President to President.

* I announced that I would not be on the board in any capacity for the 2008/2009-year (that worked well huh?)

* Dave, N2FEP resigned from all Amateur Radio positions he held (ouch)

* The nominating committee for our 2008/2008 Board of Directors could not find anyone to fill open positions. The office of Vice President is still open and I expect to fill that at our June meeting.

Jim, K2LM could not stay for our membership meeting in May. I am sure that he thought I would do what I have done SEVERAL times in the past and ask him to take president for "just one more time" (yes, the thought did cross my mind). As much as I did want off the board, I have worked too hard beside far too many of you to just walk away and ignore the situation. I will therefore take the role as President of Saratoga County RACES as seriously as I have taken my other roles on the board and give it my all. I would like to thank you all for your support (and push) and look forward to a successful year.

For this year, I am looking to increase membership and member participation in various events. I want to see more people at Field Day (which is asking a lot since we had a record crowd last year). I want more membership participation at the meetings (we want to have meetings you WANT to come to and only you know what they are – share your thoughts and ideas for monthly meetings). I also want to break all records for our hamfest, which will take much work from all of you starting now – talk it up.

I get several emails a month asking for information. New hams, people new to the area, and just general interest questions. I believe these emails are generated from our web page.

Since the web page started I have been using Front Page to create and update the web page. Front Page was discontinued in 2006. Their extensions are no longer supported and I had no choice but to find a new program. With that said, the entire web page had to be completely redone. I have just completed learning a new program, creating a new web page and publishing it on our site wa2umx.net. The majority of the information is the same, but with a new look and a few new features. I will continue to work on upgrades (which are long overdue). If there is something you would like me to add, change, delete or that isn't working, please feel free to email me (dar@saratogaspringsny.us).

I hope to see you all at our next meeting, Monday June 9th (the day after Tour de Cure), and at Field Day.

Darlene, N2XQG

Field Day Alert

Field day is coming again! Field day is an emergency test for ham radio operators to show that we can set up quickly and operate under emergency conditions. Everybody is welcome -- even if you have no experience. It is good fun and a great way to support the amateur community.

I'd like as many hams as possible to come use the equipment and make some contacts. As usual we'll have food and drinks on hand, and a BBQ lunch is on tap for Saturday. Please come help in setting up and tearing down. If you are able to help out, please let me know at k2bd@hotmail.com. Let's make this event even bigger than last year -- and more fun!

Field Day - Wilton EMS Building on Jones Road
Date and Time Period: Field Day is always the **fourth full weekend of June -- that's June 28-29, 2008** -- beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. Byron—K2BD

Boy Scout Camporee

First I want to thank you all for the fantastic job you did on our club's contribution to the Boy Scout's Spring Camporee. I am sure that many of the boys will remember their first exposure to Amateur Radio. I hope that someday a few of the boys will join our ranks. Incidentally, my first exposure to Amateur Radio occurred in a Boy Scout meeting.

Here are a few statistics from the day:

3 hours to set up the station.

30 minutes to figure out how to extend the tower base after mounting the antennas on the tower.

1 hour to take the station apart.

15 HF contacts in the AM; 12 HF in the PM

Many VHF contacts not logged

My estimate is 200+ boys

7 Volunteers: KC2NXC; K2BD; KB2TBB; KG2H; W2BEW; N2MBX; Dan Kemp (will take Tech test next month)

A few key takeaways:

Extend tower base before mounting the antennas.

Put the long coax on the antennas first.

The site would make a great field day site.

I think the station was most impressive.

I have Boy Scout patches for the participants.

Well done, thank you a thousand times.

73s, Tim Kemp N2MBX

Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 7 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 Dave, N2FEP, after the net.

News from ARRL

Compiled from ARRL Letter and www.arrl.org

HAMS HEED THE CALL WHEN TORNADOES SWEEP THROUGH COLORADO

On Thursday, May 22, a large tornado touched down in northern Colorado near the town of Windsor, approximately 50 miles north of Denver. ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM, said ARES District 10 was activated.

The funnel cloud, accompanied by golf-ball sized hail, blackened the skies over Windsor as it knocked down power lines, shredded crops in fields outside the city and blasted whole neighborhoods, particularly in the southeast side of town. Ryan said "The storm resulted in one fatality, and more than 100 people were treated for some type of injury.

Ryan said that at the peak of the ARES operation, "Colorado ARES District 10 had 55 operators supporting emergency response and relief efforts in the aftermath of the tornado that touched down near Windsor."

AMATEURS ASSIST WITH FLORIDA FIRES

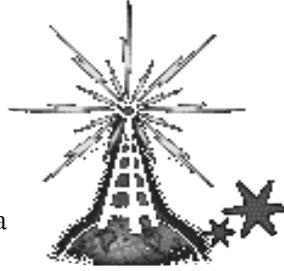
Amateur Radio operators in Brevard County, Florida responded in a recent spate of wildfires that ravaged the towns of Palm Bay and Malabar. The fires, all of which were deemed "suspicious" by fire authorities, began on Sunday, May 11. The Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Services (BEARS) donated the use of their mobile command center to public safety agencies. The command vehicle, dubbed BEARS-I, was obtained through a \$100,000 grant from the State of Florida, and was designed and built by a group of Amateur Radio operators from local Brevard County clubs.. BEARS-I is outfitted with Brevard County 800 MHz public safety radios and amateur equipment.

According to official sources, the fires destroyed more than 30 homes with an estimated value of \$5.6 million, and damaged almost 250 residences.



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.

OFFICERS

President:
Darlene Lake N2XQG
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Vice President:
(Currently vacant)

Secretary:
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Treasurer:
Al Margadonna—KA1IEG
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Radio Officer:
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Sysop WA2UMX DX Cluster:
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Directors:
Dave Bargovic—NR2J
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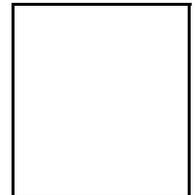
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Recent Club Events

Boy Scout Camporee—May 17

