

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting June 9, 2008

Meeting called to order by president at 18:35 hrs.
Members present: Darlene – N2XQG, Pres; Al – KA1IEG, Treas; Peter – W2BEW, Sec; Dave - NR2J; Dennis – WA2JWO; Byron – K2BD; Francis – W1LJF; Tim – N2MBX; Dan - KC2TOG.

- Minutes from previous meeting accepted
- Darlene read a letter to Jim, K2LM, from NOBARC (Northern Berkshire ARC) to their members discussing the need for prompt payment of dues to head off financial troubles. Jim thanked our club for its long-term support of the hamfest, which generates significant revenue and allows us to operate with a financial cushion.
- Darlene requested approval of \$39.95 to purchase the new software she used to rebuild the club website (www.wa2umx.net) after support for the previous software was discontinued by Microsoft. Board approved.
- Peter submitted the Secretary's report and expenses:
 - \$242.66 for copying and postage expenses since he took over newsletter in 9/06
 - \$99.90 for Heil headset for club's Icom 706 for use at Tour de Cure and Field Day.
- Al offered the Treasurer's Report:
 - ◇ Opening balance: \$9294.24
 - ◇ Interest: \$2.85; Expense: \$382.51
 - ◇ Closing balance: 8914.58
- Dave discussed food to be available at Field Day event

Meeting adjourned at 19:00.

Present at the General Meeting (convened at 19:30):
All of the above, plus: Henry – KB2STR; Jim – KG2H; Larry – KC2BLC; Bill – KC2NXC; Steve – WA2TTF; Bob – KB2TBB; Kathy – KC2DOG; Hal – AK2E; Mark – WB2FBZ.

Items discussed:

- Club jackets by Stitch Witchery in Schuylerville, will be available through www.wa2umx.net website. Members may order direct.
- Kathy still needs volunteers (total of 13) for MS Bike Ride on July 12 from Moreau Lake State Park, South Glens Falls. Contact Kathy at kbarton@nycap.rr.com
- Discussed strategy and staffing for Boy Scout Camporee and Tour de Cure
- Field Day Preparations:
 - Will field 3 HF stations, plus one Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station and one VHF station
 - Will use Tri-Band beam and portable tower, G5RV dipole, Buckmaster 7-band dipole and VHF vertical
 - Will plan to pass traffic (10 general and one to Section Manager-K2YJZ)
 - Press releases to Saratogian, Gazette, T-U, TV-9, Channels 6, 10, 13
 - Will offer ARRL literature and educational opportunities
 - Food will include chicken, beans, macaroni salad, tossed salad, soda, water, chips and whatever else members wish to bring
 - Set Up starts at 2pm on Friday 6/27

Meeting adjourned
at 20:30 hrs.



Message from Dave Atwell—N2FEP

Fellow radio club members

I know many are wondering why I chose to resign my positions both in the club and outside. Let me say that it is one of the hardest things I've done in amateur radio including passing code tests.

I have been an active member of our club since I was first licensed in 1976, providing whatever assistance was needed. In 1988 I took up the challenge and restarted ARES in Saratoga County after a long absence. Lots of people helped make it a success, and I thank every one of them.

I then was asked by National Weather Service to become the Skywarn Coordinator for Saratoga County, assisting in Warren and Washington counties, as well. I again stepped up to the plate and did what was asked. Our Skywarn program has flourished since 1989 and continues to be looked at by others as a model.

I have been an officer in the club for many years, and with the help of many, our group has grown to its present size and stature in the amateur radio community. We enjoy one of nicest locations for a club in the area with a great operating antenna system.

Over a Saturday lunch in 1985 or so, we came up with the idea to run our own hamfest. We did the work and the Saratoga County Hamfest was born. It continues today - 22 years later.

Enough about me. I came to the realization that my time at home had dwindled to less than 2 hrs a week. I needed to make a change. I think change is a good thing for individuals as well as groups. New people in charge bring new ideas and positive movement just as when I became an officer. So in the interest of making amateur radio a fun hobby for me again, and to provide for my family, I have had to make several changes. Not being in charge was one of them.

I believe that our group will continue to prosper and grow, as there are many good members that can provide new ideas and guidance. I intend to continue my membership and be around when I can to help out. I would hope that some of you might pick up the vacated positions I held for so long -- Skywarn Coordinator and ARES Emergency Coordinator to name 2 of them.

I will continue to operate the 147.360 repeater, providing a needed service for everyone.

Thanks to each and every member for your support over the years. I count all of you as friends.

All the best 73's
Dave - N2FEP

Field Day Wrap-Up: Another Successful Event!

The SCARA Field Day effort on June 28-29 was a success from many standpoints this year. More members participated (50). More total contacts (1109). More phone contacts (891). More CW contacts (218). More QSO points (1327) — for a total score of 2654

We also earned 100 points for emergency power; 100 points for media coverage; 100 points for a public site; 100 points for a public information table; 100 points for message handling; 100 points for message origination to our Section Manager, N2YJZ; 100 points for copying the ARRL bulletin; 100 points for offering an educational opportunity; 100 points for visit by an agency official; and 60 more points for operating a "Get-On-The-Air" station for new or unlicensed operators.

Thanks to FD Coordinator, Byron Wilhoite—K2BD, we've turned in a very impressive performance and sharpened our emergency operating skills in the process. Congratulations to all!

Upcoming Meetings & Public Service Events

(Ed, AB2XA—PSE Chair)

JULY 12— MS Bike Run—Moreau Lake Park

Kathy Barton KC2DOG
kbaron@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 8—SCARA Meeting (Wilton EMS)

SEPTEMBER 13 – Hamfest & VE Exams (Saratoga County Fairground—Blstn. Spa)

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.

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

AN ERA COMES TO A CLOSE AS RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH, K4ZDH, RETIRES

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH -- the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement -- said goodbye to the FCC and began his life as a private citizen.

In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited "several issues on the table that I want [ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community." While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

PHILADELPHIA AREA HAMS NAIL ROGUE RADIO SIGNALS

When residents of a Philadelphia suburb complained to an area television station about how their remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store, an investigative reporter for NBC-10 (WCAU) called everyone she could to help her discover why. No one knew anything -- until she called on some local ham radio operators.

Lu Ann Cahn said that shoppers told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shoppers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors: "One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it."

So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, Cahn happened upon Reggie Leister, N3KAS, and Bob Rex, K3DBD, of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. Leister and Rex accompanied Cahn to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. When Leister aimed the antenna in the

direction of the Kohl's store, he hit pay dirt. They moved in closer to the building and pinpointed that one signal was coming from one set of doors, while the other signal emitted from another set of doors.

Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors at each set of doors might be the culprit. Three days later, remote car door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're working on it," Cahn said.

Cahn was quick to give on-air credit to the local hams who stepped up to the plate and helped crack this mystery: "We here at NBC10 were so curious as to why these remote car locks would just stop working, so we thought we should really try to solve this mystery. I have to give kudos to Reggie Leister and Bob Rex with the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. We called so many people trying to figure this out and nobody knew anything until we talked to these ham radio operators. They were so wonderful and they knew all about radio signals. They created their own gadgets to help us figure this out. We really want to thank them for their help."

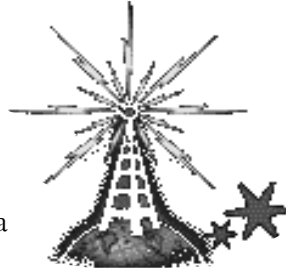
Field Day Fun





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

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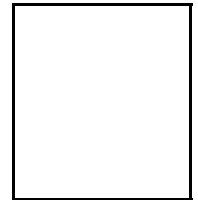
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More Field Day Photos

June 27, 28, 29, 2008

