



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

It's May — time for the annual SCARA

ELECTIONS MONDAY, MAY 11

The Nominating Committee has been busy twisting arms, and has come up with an outstanding slate of candidates, as follows:

President—Dave Atwell, N2FEP

Vice President-Darlene Lake, N2XQG

Treasurer- Al Margadonna, KA1IEG

Secretary - Peter Miller, W2BEW

The slate for the Board of Directors includes five (5) names for the four (4) openings on the Board:

Dave Bargovic, NR2J

Walt Goddard, WZ2D

Dennis Kagel, WA1JWO

Ed Kear, AB2XA

Byron Wilhoite, K2BD

Nominations can also be made by members at this meeting prior to the vote. The meeting will also include a display of vintage radio equipment.

Board of Directors Meeting

April 13, 2009

The board meeting was called to order at 6:37 by President Darlene Lake, N2XQG. Present were BoD members Al – KA1IEG, Peter - W2BEW, Byron – K2BD, Dave – NR2J, Dennis – WA2JWO, and a number of club members.

- Al – KA1IEG presented the treasurer's report: Opening balance - \$ 9830.08; Closing balance \$10,304.32. The SwapFest raised \$600, and the handi-talki for the drawing cost \$140.
- Peter – W2BEW presented the secretary's report: The club now has 99 paid-up members, approximately 30 in arrears, and another 12 whose in-kind contributions make them dues-free members.
- Byron – K2BD will again chair the club's Field Day efforts on June 27-28. He'll need help setting up on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, CW and SSB operators from 2pm Saturday through 2pm Sunday, and with tear-down on Sunday afternoon. Plan to help out in any way you can. Location, once again, will be Wilton EMS on Jones Road (Exit 15 of I-87).
- Jim – K2LM had previously reported that Alice Whitaker, XYL of silent-key, Edgar – K2DLL, has asked if the club would like to assume Ed's call letters. Ed was a founder of the club and of Saratoga County Civil Defense. Alice has now written the FCC to notify them of Ed's death, and Jim



believes the club will be assigned the call within a matter of a few weeks. The call, K2DLL, will be used on the club's repeaters and all its activities.

- Jim also reported that the county's radio space requirements at the new Providence site will be larger than previously thought. That will leave us with less space, and we may end up in a separate small building or box. The tower will remain where it is for now.
- The Saratoga County Fair is still looking for volunteer radio operators during the Fair from July 14 – 19. Coverage is needed during the evening hours on Tuesday through Sunday. We will schedule a visit to the fairgrounds in the coming weeks to scope out the radio system, and we'll ask volunteers to sign up at the next two meetings.
- Peter indicated that the number of newsletters that must be copied and mailed has risen by 50% recently with the new memberships offered to those who pass their VEC exams at our events. In an effort to reign in that task and cost, the board voted to establish a two-tiered membership cost beginning in 2010. Annual dues for email memberships will remain at \$10 per year. Dues for members whose newsletters must be mailed will be \$17 per year. Please furnish us with your current email address to remain at the current, lower rate.
- The May meeting is our annual election of officers and directors. A Nominating Committee agreed to meet and come up with a slate of officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

General Meeting

- Sid Wolin, K2LJH, gave an interesting and practical presentation on "SWR Myths." Thanks, Sid!

Meeting adjourned at 8:08. Submitted by Peter – W2BEW

We need your email address!

If you're not receiving this newsletter by email, your dues will go up to \$17 next year. Please furnish your email to petermil@aol.com. Thanks.

Club to Receive K2DLL Callsign of Founder Ed Whitaker — SK

As mentioned last month, Alice Whitaker asked the club if we would like the call of her late husband, Ed — K2DLL. We said yes and asked Jim - K2LM, trustee of the club's license, to pursue this application.

On 4/30, Jim reported, "At this writing we are waiting for the FCC to cancel K2DLL's license. When this happens Saratoga County RACES will obtain the callsign and everything we do from now on which includes the beacons on 144, 220, 1296; the APRS nodes; the packet network and our voice repeaters will use the callsign K2DLL.

On 5/1, he reported, "The FCC has canceled K2DLL and I, as club trustee, have applied to have Saratoga County RACES have the callsign of K2DLL."

Jim expects this application to be granted any day — meaning that all of the club's repeaters and activities (including Field Day) will begin to use the call K2DLL. In this way, the memory of Ed, who was so active in our club, will live on for many years to come. Thank you, Alice!

Emergency Communications from Dave Atwell—N2FEP

Had a successful Skywarn training on April 28th with 16 participants. NWS meteorologist John Quillan did an excellent job. There is one more session in our area for those that need to re-certify (must be done every 2 years to continue as a spotter). It will be held May 20, in Johnstown, Fulton County. Go to the NWS webpage to preregister. (<http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/Talks.htm>)

In the fall, there will be a winter weather Skywarn training at NWS in Albany -- date to be announced.

Spring brings thunderstorms, so stay alert, and if weather looks threatening, have your HT ready for a spotter net on our repeaters. NWS will be checking for operators on all local repeaters for information on the storms. Please use the minimum reporting criteria sheet everyone should have to provide useful information. If it is a very localized event, you will need to call into the 800 number with your reports.

Be timely. Their success depends on our accurate and timely reporting. Warnings are sent out based on our report information.

73's
Dave N2FEP
Skywarn Coordinator, ARES E/C

Public Service Events

(Ed Kear—AB2XA, chair)

Lion's Duathlon—May 24 (Jim-K2LM)

Skidmore Campus—S.S.

ADA Tour de Cure-June 7 (Lee-WB2NSC)

S.S. High School, West Ave.

Upcoming Events

East Greenbush Hamfest—May 9

www.W2EGB.org

Rochester Hamfest—May 30

www.rochesterham.org

Field Day—June 27-28 (Byron-K2BD)

Wilton EMS; Jones Road

Saratoga County Fair Needs Evening Radio Operators

The club has offered to help the Fair staff its communications room during evening hours from July 14—19. This will allow us to keep our rental cost low for our annual HamFest in September.

Contact Peter—W2BEW (petermil@aol.com) if you can volunteer for radio duty at the Fair one evening. There will be a visit to the fairground to scope out the communication system.

Trading Post

Your equipment listed here — FREE.

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 this net. It's easy. Just keep track of the check-ins and give everyone a chance to speak.

TOUR DE CURE NEWS

from Lee—WB2NSC

(June 7—Saratoga Springs HS)

The course is new — start/finish at Saratoga Springs High School on West Avenue instead of Stillwater HS. A preliminary map is attached to this newsletter as an extra page (email only).

Jim - K2LM has drive-tested the new routes and has found that 147.000 does not work at all in northern Saratoga County. We are considering other repeater options in that area. Jim also checked out a couple of locations for net control at the Saratoga High School.

Registration is running about 60% ahead of last year for the same date and could exceed 1500 riders! There are more vehicles to support this year—7 vans and 3 bike repair—so we need a few more volunteers. Thanks to the 23 amateurs that have already signed up to help.

Get your radio equipment out and checked. The event will be on us soon. Stay tuned and thanks Lee—WB2NSC

(If you would like a "final" version of the Tour map, contact Lee at lpalmer@capital.net)

Byron-K2BD says "Get ready for Field Day 2009!"

Byron will again chair the club's Field Day operations on June 27-28. We'll need your help with set-up, operating for 24 hours (SSB and CW), and tear-down. Tell Byron you're coming at k2bd@hotmail.com

Time for Antenna Work Nearly Over

From K8JE's Weaver's Words for April 29, 2009:

It is my unfortunate duty to remind everyone the time to install and repair antennas has nearly passed for our part of the world. The next opportunity to ensure the value of this work will not come again until early winter.

The Law of Mass Inclemency clearly states that the worse the weather when antenna work is done, the better the antenna will perform.

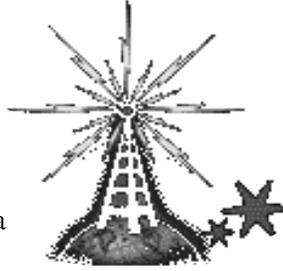
Conversely, the less uncomfortable the weather when this work is performed, the less well the antenna will perform.



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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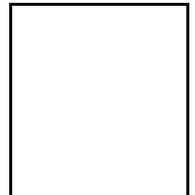
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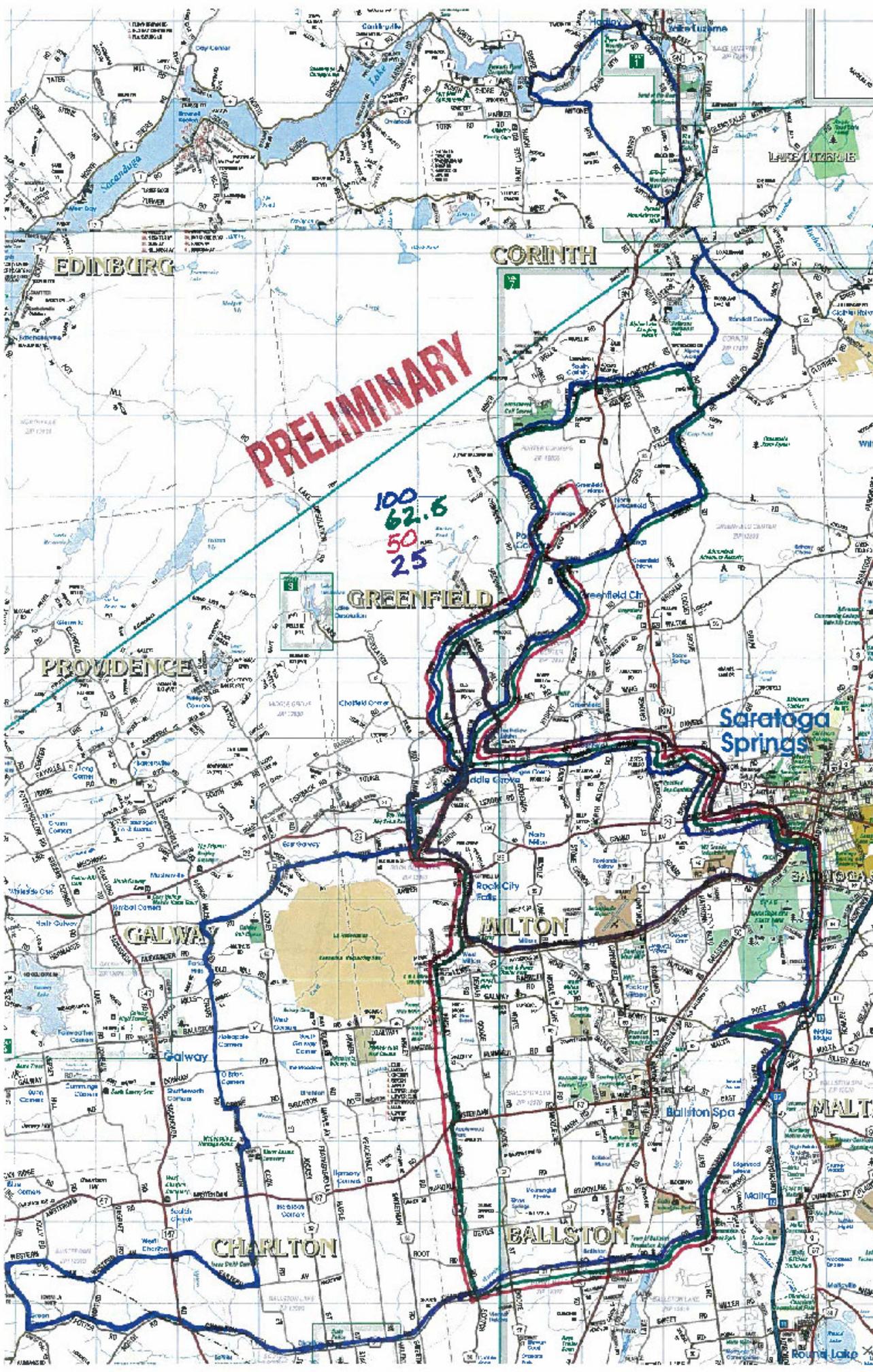
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PRELIMINARY

100
62.6
50
25

EDINBURG

CORINTH

GREENFIELD

PROVIDENCE

Saratoga Springs

GALWAY

MILTON

CHARLTON

BALLSTON

Ballston Spa

MALDEN

Ballston Lake